

1507 | 1424.

Rev. A. S. Stuart,

to

Am. Westropp

Long Island

Nov. 1885

THE
WEIRD SISTERS.

When shall



Philadelphia Street

THE
WEIRD SISTERS:

A NOVEL,
IN THREE VOLUMES.

When shall we three meet again,
In Thunder, Lightning, or in Rain?
When the Hurly-Burly's done.

SHAKESPEARE.

VOL. III.

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M. DCC. XCIV.



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THE
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CHAP. XLV.

THE Rector remained for some minutes by himself, irresolute how to act. At length he determined to acquaint his ward with all that had passed between him and Mr. Hamilton, having had injunctions from him so to do, for he thought, under such circumstances, it were best to damp her future expectations, and though he believed Mr. Hamilton was a Gentleman of strict veracity, and would not deceive him, much less her, yet being a young man, and of a

VOL. III. B sanguinary

languinary disposition, and could ill-brook restraint, he might not, at so early an age, recollect all that he assented to respecting Miss Collone.—Besides, as it too often happens, where marriages are made in infancy by parents, the children are taught to regard each other, as the primary source of their future good; and as fortune stimulates, in the first instance, to guide the parents in their choice, so the young people are instructed to believe worldly possession the greatest happiness. Thus affection, or natural love, is not thought ~~on~~ by either, so that, at the time the marriage is to take place, it generally follows that there may be some small portion of love on one side, especially if either possess any personal attractions; but it too often happens that there is none on either. Thus they are united with a total indifference to each other; the consequence is, that the first attractive object they see, nature yields to her dictates, either the woman is seduced, or the husband treats her with contempt, as the ultimate object on both sides of their mutual unhappiness.—Now the Rector
drew



drew the inference from these premises, that this was the situation of Mr. Hamilton; that the Lady in question loved him, his friend's congratulations had assured him; but Miss Capel being the first woman, who had given warmth to his dormant passions, it was natural for him to wish to forget what he had no inclination to remember; nevertheless the tie might be such, as to render it difficult for him to disengage himself from with honor, and how sincerely soever he might love Miss Capel, he did not intend that she should be the sacrifice, in his breach of it, for love, in such sanguinary and warm constitutions as Mr. Hamilton's, generally operated violently, and while the influence of that passion guided him, he would be led to sacrifice every other consideration, which, when the object was attained, and cool deliberation brought investigation, reflection might bring more again to view, and the sense of a breach of a moral duty supersede the influence of that love which had occasioned it; but Miss Capel was not to hazard such investigation.

With these resolves the Rector returned to the company, whose eyes were all fixed on him the moment he entered, and Mr. Langdale said, "Doctor, I hope you have prevailed on Mr. Hamilton not to fail in such weather?"

"Indeed, Sir (replied Mr. Allen) I have not; he is gone."

"Gone!" vociferated the company, when casting his eyes on his ward, he saw her countenance was expressive of terror and apprehension, and the rest having caught the contagion, he added a "nay," with an observation, "that he could not but suppose there were no danger, as the Captain expressed such haste to fail; besides (continued the doctor, to use Mr. Langdale's expression) we know that a few hours ago we all experienced more tremendous weather ourselves."

"Let us go to the Quay, and see (said Miss Emily) which proposal being accepted
by

by the majority of the company," (Miss Capel not wishing a second sight of what she had so lately escaped from) and the Rector saying, "he would stay and keep her company," tho' he observed, "that he supposed, had the rest of the fleet not received some injury, as obliged them to stay and refit, they would all have been compelled to trust again to a turbulent sea, or have been obliged to have continued at Lisbon some length of time."

The young Ladies, on this declaration, said, "that no commands of a Captain should have forced them to have quitted land, when any danger presented itself," and the lovers confirmed the assertion: But Miss Capel observed, "that what her guardian said was true; that, as we had escaped a greater sea, we should not be fearful of a lesser danger." They then left him and his ward together, and traversed the path that had been hallowed to their feet by the power of invisible agency, in a storm of contending elements, and again took a survey of the shore, which had given

them the consolation of safety and succour, together with revolutionary and extraordinary discoveries, and got there just time enough to know, and to be known by Mr. Hamilton, who waving his hand, and moving his hat, as he stood on the deck, they severally gave the salutation of a farewell.

“ If we should never see him again (said Miss Emily) what would our sister say ?”

“ Were that a certainty (returned Mr. Langdale) but let us not conjecture evils, which would sensibly affect us all were they to be realized, when, for the first time since the discovery in the morning, Miss Emily mentioned their birth, by observing, ‘ that the *history* which Augustin had unfolded, must bring Mr. *Hamilton* again to their knowledge, had he no other inducement than a discharge of his trust ;’ when turning to Capt. Allen, ‘ I told you I was poor, and the only satisfaction which arises to me in the event is, that I shall give you a dowered heart, with a titled wife ; the first only estimable, as from
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it are to be derived the comforts of life, and the latter to be repeated as an inheritance from my father."

Captain Allen could not do less than acknowledge that he held neither of them of value, in competition with his love of her; and Mr. Langdale, who having a large independent fortune, spoke with the utmost sincerity of his heart, when he declared to his Mary, "that he rejoiced in no satisfaction to be derived from either, but rested all his future prospects solely on her."

The guardian thus left, thought he could not do better than by taking an advantage of the privacy, endeavour to lessen that affection in the breast of his ward, which he had hitherto been so assiduous to cultivate; and having Mr. Hamilton's injunction fully in his mind to inform her of every circumstance, and there being no request towards a mitigation, he held it his duty to diminish the charms of any prospect her heart might have

been inclined to view through the medium of the discovery, for he could not suppose, as she had herself done, that it had damped the ardor of his love; he therefore did not now hesitate at mentioning a name he had heretofore been prohibited from speaking, and without any preface said, "that Mr. Hamilton's impatience to be gone had made him hazard much;" but her making no reply to this observation, on the contrary appearing attentive, he continued, by remarking, "that his haste proceeded from various causes;" that to be sure, the death of his father must be his first inducement, and highly necessary that his presence should be on the spot, as the art and chicanery of mankind were such, that few, very few, were to be trusted with power, especially where the temptation was so great, there was one he knew he had reason to fear.

Miss Capel then raised her eyes on her guardian, "a man who was the greatest enemy to Lord Marr (continued the Rector) because

cause he had through the influence he had acquired over his father in his illness, made him insist on guiding the affections and inclinations of his *son*, as"—“How, Sir?” replied Miss Capel, hastily.

Mr. Allen then related all Mr. Hamilton had told him respecting Sir James Collone and his daughter, and the fears he had in regard to the machinations of that artful man; but knowing he was equally bound not to conceal a part, and his own inclination leading him to fear, when he wished to be certain, he added: “But, my dear ward, I was requested, at the same time that Lord Marr told me this, to assure you he was under no engagement to marry that young Lady.”

Miss Capel now thought proper to reply to her guardian, which she did by first thanking him for his candour. In respect, Sir, to Mr. Hamilton, I will not call him Lord Marr; titles are of small estimation,

unless guarded by probity and honor; it might have been as well, perhaps better, if he had never known that distinction, for us I am sure it would, and I can never yield to any other opinion, than that it was the wish of my father we should never know it, events extraordinary and unsolicited, have brought that however to the world, and we must abide by them. The conduct of the Gentleman we are now speaking of, as you, Sir, have hitherto been his advocate with me, I will, in return to your sincerity, say, that you was not unsuccessful. You instructed me to view Mr. Hamilton in a favourable light, and I was guided by your admonitions. I thought him, I still think him, the most amiable of men, and I was only restrained from telling you so before from the solicitude I underwent (together with the duty I owed my father) for my sisters. They were no sooner found, found as I wished, than my heart gladdened at my future prospects, and I looked only to Mr. Hamilton for the completion of them. These pleasing ideas were
damped

damped by the discovery that we are the daughters of the Earl of Marr, and by ties of consanguinity his first cousins : But give me leave, Sir, to say to you, that from the time that circumstance was made known, Mr. Hamilton's attentions to me have visibly declined. The observation led me to believe family incidents might render it necessary, and if so, I was compelled to acquiesce ; but you, Sir, have now unfolded the mystery. Mr. Hamilton is engaged to Miss Collone. His Honor is responsible for fulfilling that engagement ; nor will I be the object to interfere between them, or disturb their mutual happiness. I look, Sir, with eager haste, to be again restored to the ease of the cottage, (O that I had never left it !) when the marriage of Emily with your son, and Mary with Mr. Langdale, will constitute all of happiness I can ever know ; and I would not have you think, Mr. Allen, that I have so far lost my fortitude, as not to be able to say, that the union of both will afford me a great portion of felicity."

Miss Capel then rose, and traversed the room to hide her emotion, and the Rector was so affected, that he could only thank her for condescending to give her approbation to the wishes of his son Charles, acknowledging that he had no other portion than a heart fraught with every sentiment of virtue which ought to inhabit the breast of man.—And what need he more? (she returned) Emily will have fortune sufficient, Mr. Langdale's fortune does not make him respectable in my eyes, and if I give a preference in their several choices, it is that one has selected the son of my guardian: But (added she, smiling, and giving him her hand at the same time) you will forgive me, Mr. Allen, if I now say, that I am no convert to your argument of being compelled to love society, and to cultivate it. How much peace of mind have I lost since I was so unwillingly, as you know, obliged to leave the seclusion of my parent! How prophetically he warned us against the danger is, in my behalf, now verified! But it is still attainable:

I can again seek in that sweet retreat for peace and tranquillity. Unhappily is the idea to me, that a time is already arrived, which can raise a doubt whether in the attempt I may be successful. You must think (I will now mention the name of Mr. Hamilton to you) you must think, Sir, that in the engagement of Miss Collone he has acted with duplicity towards me. The terms in which he lived with his late father, and which drove him from the kingdom (as he acknowledged to you) might, and did most probably proceed from that cause."

"No, no (interrupted the Rector) that was not the cause of their disagreement, I know; for it was respecting his father's behaviour to his brother, and you his children, which occasioned them to dispute."

"For that reason (replied the ward) you must believe, Sir, that the event of the discovery, though it has not been mentioned
since

since Augustin gave the first information, has had full investigation in my mind, in which Mr. Hamilton's father, and consequently my uncle, must be thought ~~on~~ as I should think of him, an interested person in behalf of his brother. My father, as you hear, was a suspected, an accused, and an attainted man. The last circumstance he never knew; but I, that knew his sentiments of honor and integrity so well, can easily account for his exclusion, and only wonder, in his care and preservation of us, and himself for our sakes, he had not sought a *cavern*, and shunned the world entirely; yet even then I should have thought the affections of a brother (for such a brother too!) would have discovered his retreat, especially when he was restored to his lost honor, how must an amiable mind have been self-satisfied in contributing to such a restoration."

Here the guardian gently intimated, that Lord George Dacre was *not* such a man as
she

she described ; that he was sordid, selfish and dissipated ; that he had contributed to the calumnies and distresses of his brother, and not relieved them ; but he softened this information by saying, “ that in his youth he was given to extravagance and libertinism, which had occasioned him and his brother to live on very distant terms, years before the disgrace of your father happened, Miss Cappel, and, though I had power from Mr. Hamilton to tell you so, he feared it might make you think disadvantageously of him ; at the same time let me add, that the supineness of his father, and his neglect in not seeking the abode of you and your parent, after he was acquainted with the transactions, was the cause of an irreconcilable disagreement between them, which finally proved the cause of your making the discovery, and his being driven abroad, that he might not incur any share in the disgrace.”

“ It would have been better if we had never met, if he had privately submitted to his father's

father's injustice; but that I believe Mr. Hamilton could not do (returned the ward) and can he think of me a moment, as to suppose I would involve him in a crime it was not possible for him to be (even an accessory) from his youth : And if ever you, Sir, hear of him, if it will give him any satisfaction, you may say I wholly acquit him of the charge; for me it is probable I shall never see him again."

The Rector then reminded her that it was almost next to impossible but she must see him again, on account of their situation, when she hastily replied, "Why, Sir, he may be drowned," and her countenance expressed terror; when she added, "Has he not shewn an indifference for life by venturing to sea in such weather? yet, should he escape that fate, he cannot wish to meet me, nor can I have a desire to see him; for the sake of your son I will promote the liquidations of the fortune," and giving a smile through

through some tears, which strayed down her cheeks, she added : " And you, my guardian, shall be responsible for me, by setting your hand to any releases, which Mr. Hamilton may find necessary for his own future security, as he is heir at law to my father in the title, and the estate consequently entailed on it."

" I do not know that (said the Rector, for his father by his *will*, which he executed during his illness, had made the forfeiture of the estates, the condition of his not fulfilling his commands."

" A cruel *injunction* ! (said the ward) And did he make such a *will* on his death-bed, and while his son was abroad ? But it is possible his being so, induced him to shew so powerful a resentment, yet estates are usually annexed to titles. Time will, however, shew which he prefers, and I hope sincerely he will possess both."

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The Rector, from this conversation, found that Mr. Hamilton had made a greater inroad on the affections of his ward than he at first imagined. She seemed to intimate that any infelicity she met was of no import, if he gained an advantage by the sacrifice; she would not admit an idea he was in any manner accessory to his father's want of brotherly affection, or that his patrimony should be diminished, or his honor forfeited, on her account; in fact, the Rector saw that the cottage would now be only estimable, as giving her an opportunity to indulge in solitude her own disappointment alone, without Mr. Hamilton's knowing of them; at the same time she would forego them, while in the exchange she could have had his society, and he was going to lessen the power of what he intended to enhance, her beginning indifference, by telling, "that were he drowned, his last thoughts and wishes would be directed solely to her," when he was opportunely prevented by the entrance of the sisters, with the Gentlemen;

tlemen; when Miss Mary observed, "that all solicitude for the safety of Mr. Hamilton might cease, as the sailors on the Quay had said the wind was shifting, and the weather would soon be fair."

C H A P. XLVI.

MR. Langdale then told the Rector, that he had met the Captain of their ship, Mr. Davis, who said the convoy, with the fleet, would sail the next morning, and he had taken passages for them all with him, as they would not run the hazard of a second separation, and he had therefore ordered their baggage to be removed from the vessel, in which they came, which Augustin had undertaken to see done; when Miss Emily said, "it were necessary to be careful of their box, as it contained the voluntary confession of the Marchioness de Silona:" But the Rector

Rector said, "the packet had lost its intrinsic value, and Madame had not merit in the confession, even had it been made to her ghostly father, and he would be so charitable, nor did he doubt they would join him in the wish, that her punishments should not be equal to the transgression, even if she had embraced the Catholic Faith, in consequence of her marriage, and thus compelled to a severe penance:" Yet Mr. Langdale observed, "that from the knowledge he had of Madame, she could keep a secret, without the horrors of conscience, even from her confessor, if she thought it requisite, and he made no doubt this would be one she would *not* divulge, and that she, by a dexterity in deception, could at all times avoid the penance, even when she might wilfully commit the sin that deserved it."

He then proposed, as the day was their own, he would, if agreeable to the company, visit a friend of his, who resided in Lisbon, and with whom he lived when last there, who
would

would procure them an introduction into the convent of Benedictine Monks, as he was intimate with the Prior of the Order, a place frequently visited by the curious, on many accounts. Their gardens were very fine, and there was an organ in the Chapel deemed the finest in Europe. This proposal was assented to directly by all the company, Miss Capel being the first, when Augustin being ordered to prepare a dinner for them on their return, they immediately set out :

And by the meditation of the friend were admitted into the interior recesses of the Convent of Benedictines, where they were highly entertained, first with walking in the gardens, where the shady groves, the clustering vines, the walls loaded with rich and bending fruits of nectarines and peaches, while the reeking hot-house fed the nutriment of the delicious pine and melon, equally grateful to the smell and taste, occasioned the Rector to observe, "that in those secluded resorts of men, who chuse by retire-

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ment to avoid the delusions of the world, there were select hours which were *not* dedicated to *fasting* and *prayer* ;” then turning to his ward, “ Miss Capel,” said he, in a whisper, “ you see that piety is not the only solace of a Convent, and whether not more commendable to meet the world, than by a well-timed hypocrisy shun the evils only.”

“ I should think (said she) there are ways to avoid the evils of life, without incurring the charge of dissimulation.”

“ Not in these seminaries,” said the Rector.

“ No ! I grant you (returned Miss Capel) but if I had remained uncalled ^{on}, as I was nurtured, I should never have known fallacy or deception.”

“ Nor would you have known the pleasures of enjoyment,” said the Rector.

They

They now returned from the gardens to the Convent, where they were shewn the Chapel, and a reverend Gentleman of the Order, condescended to give them a solemn overture, and afterwards an anthem on the famous organ, which was accompanied with the chorus of assisting Monks. When over, Miss Mary asked an old devotee "whether they never allowed a relaxation from such solemnities?" when his answering her, with a smile, "No, never!" she turned to the Monk, who had performed on the organ, and telling him, "she thought he was not so old by twenty years, as he wished to appear, asked, if he would not indulge her vanity so far, as to let her give him a specimen of her performance, by playing the last new air she learned at Madrid?"

He, however, only gave her a benevolent look, and taking her hand was following the company, who were attending to the history of a holy man, whose portrait they were viewing, when she suddenly snatched her hand

hand from him, and returning hastily to the organ, clapped her foot on the bellows, which had not yet fell from the wind, and at the time she touched the keys, warbled out the air with such harmony of voice and execution, that the Monks were fixed with transport, till the echo ceasing, told them she had finished, when she joining them with a laugh, one of the oldest told her, "that he thought there could be no profanation when the powers given were so exquisite!"

"Ah, my good father! (said she, laying her hand on his arm) since I have been at Madrid I have been told such stories, that if you have never committed a worse crime within these walls, I should esteem you for your sanctity only."

He, in return, told her, "that she must not believe all she heard;" when addressing Mr. Allen, "We Monks are unhappily situated, Sir, as not allowing for the frailties of human nature, when we embrace

a conventual life, we are supposed to have intirely thrown aside what we came here only to subdue, therefore if we die, with a conviction that we have suppressed the vices and errors of nature, it is all we can hope for."

"And a great triumph it must be," said the Rector.

The trivial incidents which succeeded, such as the conversation at the dinner, when they returned, the appearance of Captain Davis to invite them on board, the wind proving calm and favorable the following morning, their sailing, and in the course of ten or twelve days anchoring in the port of Liverpool, where the sentiments and the sensibility of Miss Capel were severely felt by herself, though not divulged; on taking a retrospect of when she sailed, and when she anchored there, and that Mr. Allen went to the banker's, where the remains of the twenty thousand pounds were deposited, and he giving him sufficient power to draw for a legal interest

as wanted, all followed of course, when being accommodated with two carriages, they proceeded from thence by easy stages, and without any other interruption or delay, on the second day arrived at the cottage to dinner, and having been long looked and wished for, came at the moment, when not expected, or prepared for their reception.

C H A P. XLVII.

ON passing the Parsonage, they stopped to give the necessary orders for their accommodation in the evening, and then proceeded to the cottage, when Augustin alighted from the last carriage, and hastily let down the step of that in which his Ladies were placed, and knocking at the door, it was soon opened for their reception by the housemaid, who exclaiming that her Ladies were come, brought the servants instantly to the door, in which number was old Giles, who again beholding the beautiful twins (for whom he had been anxiously solicitous since they had

had disappeared with Madame) exclaimed, "Now I have lived long enough, since I see the offspring of my dear late master once more under this roof," the tears at the same time flowing down his reverend cheeks, made Miss Capel address him, by saying, "Mr. Hopkins (as he had been called by his surname since the death of his master) you see I have brought my sisters home."

"Yes," said Miss Mary, with a smile, and taking the old man by the hand, "your wishes are fulfilled, Mr. Hopkins, and, if we have not been riding on brooms, or crossing the sea in a nut-shell, we have experienced that such things are to be performed without the power of incantation."

"I am glad to see you," returned the old man; "I am glad to see you, let it be which way it will, and my good dear master what would he have said?"

This intimation made Miss Capel hurry into the parlour in visible emotion, when the rest of the travellers following, they found Mrs. Allen's injunctions had been strictly adhered to, in respect to cleanliness, for in that particular it equalled, or it might be exceeded, a palace: Captain Allen could not forbear exclaiming, "What a sweet retreat!" while Mr. Langdale, fully acquainted with the exterior, had judged how the interior was ornamented; regardless of what he said, appealed to Augustin, to know, "if he had inquired what the house produced for the accommodation of his Ladies dinner?"

Augustin then approached Miss Capel, and said, "That the larder was at present but indifferently supplied for such a company; that the cook (who the moment she saw them, began to ruminate in her mind how her table would be supplied) said there were young pigs ready for immediate dressing in the *stable yard*, and a fine trip of young ducks fit for the spit, if they would wait the cooking."

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But Miss Capel declaring there should be no sacrifice, and Augustin then saying "there were plenty of new-laid eggs, with a fine ham untouched," it was mutually agreed that ham and eggs should be the dinner; which the cook being ordered to get with the utmost dispatch, Augustin again assumed the office of butler and valet, and in a few minutes returned to the parlour with his tray, and laid the cloth with such exact precision and neatness, as if his master had been still to inspect his regularity, or at least that he had never quitted the office. He then came to his Lady for the key of his wine cellar, who readily answered, "it was in the usual place, in the bookcase;" but his saying "he had been there in search of it," she appealed to Mrs. Allen, who having it under her care, resigned it to Augustin, who quickly returned with wines of various sorts, and other few decorations, which had been privately deposited there under-ground by himself, at his master's express order, who saw him dig the hole for the purpose, such as ornamented

lables, with the arms of the Earldom, and an enameled waiter, which he produced as vouchers (if any had been necessary) of the truth, which did not want such, or any attestation.

In the evening of this day, the day which left the daughter of the Earl of Marr, again to sleep under the roof of the cottage: Mr. Allen, with his wife and son, returned to the Parsonage, and Mr. Langdale having detained one of the carriages for his accommodation, took his road to *Norway*, his hunting seat, but not before Miss Capel had made them all promise to dine with her the following day.

Thus were again the daughters left alone, the exchange of a protector only in Augustin, for Madame La Fey, while the two youngest, unmatured for reflection, searched, with fleeting steps, the succeeding morning, every avenue and close which afforded recollection; the novelty of the absence, though only for a few months, had appeared as years, and the

the reiterated word *Here* was repeated at every place. *Here* we used to sit with Madame ; *Here* we danced ; *Here* we practised music, and when they entered and sat down in the study, they could not avoid remarking the occasion which used to bring them there, and they both in unison heaved a sigh, saying, at the same time, "*Here* we used to converse with our dear papa !" (for years had not brought them to the filial reverence of speaking of him by the name of father) and when they turned to the gate in the retrospect, the levity and imbecility of youth must be pardoned ; when they laughingly reminded each other of the circumstance of the green cart, when they went from that door, and returned to it again, without a thought of the early hour, when they fled from that protection their father had enjoined them to preserve, in doing which they had risked more, and lost so much, not a moment of reflection occurring to make them see how much they owed to the prudence and well-timed affection of their sister and friend, who

had rescued them from all future danger, though it is probable, had they given it an investigation, Mr. Langdale and Capt. Allen having acted as principles, they would have consigned to those two every merit of intention, even in exclusion of the other.

In the garden they had many stimulatives to remembrance, for as they rose at their usual hour (as they were returned to their accustomed occupations) the first person they met was Master Giles Hopkins, who, not having opportunity before fully to explain himself, could not restrain the impulse of affection now he had them before him as usual, and as dissimulation could be no part of his character, he began, by saying :

“ Ah, my dear young Ladies ! I am glad you are come home ; how could you leave Madam to go with that French woman ? She did nothing but grieve while you were gone.”

At

At these interrogations, a blush rose in both their cheeks, while they rebuked him for the questions, with "hush! hush! Mr. Hopkins, no more of that; we are returned you see."

“ O how thankful I am for it,” returned the old man, while Rover, the house dog, who was only privy to their going, and expressed so much reluctance to let them, now fawned at their feet, and expressed in dumb shew his joy at seeing them again.

The alcove too was not forgot ; the lute was yet there, which recalling to their minds their several meetings with Mr. Langdale, and the clandestine conduct of Mary, Emily chid her with good temper for her duplicity, commending her own candour, at the time she condemned her sisters in not making her privy to her intention. Miss Mary pleaded guilty, though there was much to be said in support of her conduct, for she could not place a confidence in the person who she suspected was a rival ; but had Mrs. Allen

been present at the altercation, the argument would have favoured the conduct of Mary, and the adage, in favor of her son, have told them, "that every thing was for the best."

But how different were the sensations which occupied the breast of Lady Gertrude, while her sisters were amused and happy, in reviving past scenes of happiness, and anticipating the future, she was returned to the spot for which she had sighed, with a heart fraught with apprehension and terror. It is true, there was nothing at the cottage would or could remind her of Mr. Hamilton, but by a strange perverseness of error, every thing reminded her that he was *not* there. She attempted to try the harpsichord, and it was out of tune; then the vibrating echo of the hautboy occurred, while her sister Emily played with facility on it. She was too languid to walk in the garden, and when the hour of breakfast arrived, and Augustin brought in the usual fare, neither the bread or the butter were so good as those she eat at Madrid, though
her

her own dairy produced the one, and her oven the other; and when her sister Mary reminded her of that circumstance, she imputed it to the true cause—a loss of appetite.

After breakfast, her father's library gave her the only consolation, where she expected to be surrounded with ease and comfort, yet it was not in the books she found an emollient. Her reflections, how fond her father would have been of such an amiable nephew and heir (had he ever known him) occupied the time; yet, when these thoughts obtruded, she endeavoured to divert them away, by turning over papers, altering the ornaments, while her heart would chide her for giving a thought to him, who was bound in duty not to think ~~on~~ ^{of} her, but to give his heart and wishes to another; and yet, deceitful man among men, did she say to herself, why did he fascinate me with the lure, and then instruct his friend to caution me that it was not within my grasp?

C H A P. XLVIII.

THE next day, about an hour before the time appointed, Captain Allen made his appearance at the cottage, when requesting a private interview with Miss Cappel, he solicited her approbation in his addresses to Miss Emily, her sister. He observed, "that the wish would have been highly presumptuous in him, had he aspired to that honor, knowing her the daughter of Lord Marr; but being both ignorant of so unexpected an event, a reciprocal regard had existed, in which they had mutually agreed to share the cares of life together;

nor

nor had he any satisfaction in the discovery, but as it would furnish him with the ability to adorn and illustrate that beauty Lady Emily was born to inherit, and he hoped would have her concurrence for him to protect."

Miss Capel gave him her free assent, assuring him, "it was one of the wishes of her heart, that the alteration in Emily's fortune only made it desirable, as it would enable her to present it to him. Most people, she observed, unfortunately misplaced the happiness which was thought attendant on grandeur and riches; but she was sure he would value both, from the blessings that were to be derived from them, and therefore should freely commit those, as the lesser, with her sister, to his care."

Captain Allen thanked her for her confidence, adding, "that he hoped to increase, not to diminish, her good opinion by his future conduct :—" When Lady Gertrude seeing

ing a man in livery ride up to the gate, and saying, "she supposed it was a servant of Mr. Langdale's," Captain Allen retired, and presently after Mr. Langdale drove up to the door in a phaeton, with a beautiful pair of prancing horses, attended by two livery servants, he too being dressed in the regimentals of the county militia; to which he was Colonel, dazzled the eyes of Miss Mary, as she stood at a window, and saw him drive up, yielding to the fascination of external appearances, and thereby misplacing that happiness, which ought to be a distant consideration in the distribution of a power annexed to affluence.

On being received by Lady Gertrude alone, he embraced the opportunity to ask for her suffrages, respecting her sister Miss Mary; but his fortune being independent, he treated the acquisition which would devolve to her, in the distribution of her father's patrimony, as of no estimation, while he only thought on the discovery of their descent, as it justified.

fied his choice to the world, and gave him so valuable a friend as Mr. Hamilton, whom he should be proud to be permitted to call a relation. In this address Miss Capel was compelled to acknowledge an obligation herself; at the same time that she told him, "she was happy in her sister's prospects;" but when he mentioned the happiness, he purposed to himself, in the friendship of Mr. Hamilton, her heart shrunk from a reciprocal declaration, and she only said, "she hoped, in all his wishes, let their extent be ever so enlarged, that he would meet with no disappointment."

While these mutual affiances were every day increasing to a permanency of duration, the ward of the Rector had no resource in her own breast respecting herself, she had regained the cottage; but the cottage had not regained her, though all was, as usual, peaceful and serene, there was a tumult in her own bosom, which could not be quelled by serenity, she sought unfrequented retreats, and

and when missing was always found where least expected ; her natural vivacity, when exerted, was observed to be so, and when three, four, and then six weeks had elapsed, and no intelligence arrived to Mr. Allen, though not a word was said by any body, yet the guardian saw, with regret, that the fine bloom of youth and animation began to decline, her eyes lost their sparkling brilliancy, she neglected the ornament of her person, and though perfectly clean, she was indifferent to the propriety of their adjustment ; at the same time the lovers began to grow impatient at delay, which made the Rector under the necessity to explain to Mr. Langdale and his son the situation of his ward, and Mr. Hamilton, from whom he extorted a promise that they would not, by any intimation, discover their own uneasiness, till some intelligence arrived from, or respecting that Gentleman ; the Rector too saw, with extreme regret, that his ward studiously avoided any, and every opportunity of being alone with him, from which he judged, that she

she shunned all communications, to prey alone on her own disappointments.

The industry, with which the ward strove to prevent any private conversation with her guardian, made him resolve, at any rate, to obtain one, for he thought her looks and her conduct both intimated a necessity that her mind, in some measure, should be relieved: Besides, the delay of Mr. Hamilton did not accord with his rectitude, if he was *obliged*, or *inclined* to marry Miss Collone, the friendship he had professed, together with his promises, ought to have led him to have informed him of it, though that tenacity of honor, respecting his new relation, would, by this time, have induced him to have explained more decisively the uninformed events of their deceased parent, as well as their accumulated fortunes. As to his being drowned, that was not to be feared, as the weather soon changed to a calm after he sailed, and he was sensible Mr. Hamilton had too just a sense of his own existence, to violate the laws of nature

ture in curtailing it, however his own impetuosity of temper, by disappointments, might induce him to wish its annihilation, he had therefore some idea of mentioning to Miss Capel to adopt the mode Mr. Hamilton himself had proposed, in case he had met the fate he tempted, of sending Augustin to his house in Cavendish-Square, for it became an absolute necessity that his ward must be relieved, and certainty in any respect was better than suspense on her account, hardly knowing which alternative to chuse, if no other was left, either his being drowned, or married to Miss Collone.

He therefore one morning, when Mr. Langdale had come early to spend the day at the cottage, as he was seldom away, he bid his son Charles propose to that Gentleman to take the two Ladies in his phaeton with him, while he would accompany them on horseback, to go and see the castle of Croombell, a seat belonging to a noble Earl, eminent more for his virtues than his descent,

cent, whose white-top'd turrets, in the early days of their residence at the cottage, when they used to toil the hill, Madame La Fey pointed out to their late father and them, as a residence belonging to a humane being, and from which he would turn in disgust; but these incidents were not remarked by them, they therefore cheerfully acquiesced, but not till they had each offered their seat to their sister, who they knew would refuse the offer.—The Rector having thus excluded all intruders, left the Parsonage, and walking to the cottage, with his accustomed familiarity, entered the house, going first to the parlour, and then to the library; but not finding the recluse in either, he was obliged to apply to the maid, who having examined the chamber without success, and Augustin saying “he had not seen his Lady for some time,” he sallied into the garden, where meeting Mr. Hopkins (or Giles) was told, that his Lady had walked towards the river, for it is to be observed, that Augustin, having related the nobility of his late master to the servants,

servants, they were always spoken of by them with the distinction their birth intitled them to, though when addressed by them personally, the plain appellation of Miss was only used, yet in their own conversation Lady Gertrude Dacre, or Lady Emily, or Mary, in the kitchen, lost all distinction in the parlour; and so mechanically were they in this particular, that in addressing their Lady, and saying, "Does Miss Emily, or Mary, chuse it should be so?" would immediately, when dismissed, give the order in the name of Lady Emily or Mary, while they themselves were totally unacquainted that they were so distinguished, or that it was even known by them, that they were intitled to it, a proof of how small estimation are dignities, where the virtues of the mind has been matured by instruction, as to look on those of no value, when held in comparison with the other acquisitions, for virtue, benevolence, sympathy, these ennoble, and are the laudable distinctions of honor, nature, and the world, however necessary it is for the

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the sake of order, that the other should be adopted as a subordinate.

With this intimation from Mr. Hopkins, the Rector bent his way towards the margin of the river, and progressively went from the several places which he had had pointed out to him by his ward, as the favourite spots where she used to angle with her father; but in neither of these did Miss Capel now rest: He walked however on, as the trodden path guided his steps, when the edge of her gown led him to discover her to him, seated on a bench, which had been placed by some rustic of the neighbourhood for his own accommodation; but so lost in a reverie, that she never heard the tread of his feet, notwithstanding 'solemn silence reigned,' till Mr. Allen said, "Why, ward, I have been following your footsteps along the banks of the river."

On hearing his voice she started, and rising, replied, "I am, you know, Sir, fond of seeing

ing the silent gliding waters." She then made a motion, as if intending to walk ; but the Rector stopped her, saying, " He was equally fond of observing the playing of the fish," and continued, " that as he knew her sisters were gone for an airing, he had purposely come to have a little conversation with her."

On this declaration, Miss Capel intimated her suspicion of the subject by a confused blush, which being observed by the Rector, he continued, " that he did not wish to revive any subject that might give her pain, or that she wanted to forget."

" Forget !" Miss Capel repeated, " what is there I can forget, Sir, if I wished it ?"

" Will you then give me leave," returned the Rector, " to observe that six weeks are past, and *we* have not yet heard from Mr. Hamilton ! Many circumstances may have intervened to prevent him to be sure, but as
it

it was his last request, that if we did not hear from him, to send Augustin to town." Now the Rector had no such wish; he saw the health of his ward visibly decline, and he therefore thought any diversion to her mind was better than none.

"However, Sir, Mr. Hamilton might request it," replied Miss Capel; "I shall never put it in execution."

"Well then," said the Rector, "suppose we all take a trip to London: Mr. Langdale has a residence there, which he always occupies during the meeting of parliament; as affairs are situated, there will be no impropriety in our being his visitors for a few months."

"And do you think, Sir, I can harbour a thought so mean, as to let any consideration of fortune suffer me to throw myself in the way of Mr. Hamilton, and by screening myself under that pretence, make an impli-

cation to him, that it was only the second consideration."

"But, my dear Miss Capel," returned the Rector, you forget that you have been at Madrid."

"That I may say, Sir, I can never forget," she replied.

"Why then," he returned, "you must recollect it were possible to have lived years at Madrid, if you choose it, without being discovered, and I assure, you may do the same in London."

"I see no end that would answer," Miss Capel returned. "I have been unfortunately thrown into the world, and being already tired of it, again have recovered the asylum of my father: Why should I strive to gain that situation he was unjustly driven from? No, every hour convinces me that his dying injunction

injunction of 'always living here,' was meant by him as the most eligible."

"But why does every hour convince you more of the utility of the cottage?" said the guardian. "It is, because every hour becomes more tedious; before your sisters quitted it all was serene; their being led away, brought you to share the *consequences* of their indiscretion, indeed, for thus it unfortunately happens that they all fall on you; the cottage therefore cannot give you that return of peace it was wont to bestow, disagreeable thoughts will obtrude: Besides, Miss Capel, it is probable your sisters will soon be taken from you: Mr. Langdale already shews impatience at the delay of his happiness; Charles will certainly check any impulse which may interfere with your wishes, but finally it must be so."

"All you say, Sir, is certainly true (said the ward, and the tears started in her eyes) I am very unhappy. If I were certain Mr.

Hamilton was married, I might be led perhaps to leave this dear seclusion, because I would wish to accompany those I so much love. Mr. Langdale no doubt will wish to take Mary with him to town the approaching winter, and your son, probably, with Emily, would be of the party; nor can I have a wish to separate those who have never yet been separated."

"They are, however, going to take the most effectual way to accomplish it (returned the guardian) by marriage."

"That is their own choice (said Miss Cappel.) Marriage separates, and frequently unites friends; thus, in the marriage of Emily with your son, binds my affection to you and Mrs. Allen in a two-fold cord."

"There needed not such an additional strength on our part," returned the guardian.

"Nor

“ Nor yet on mine (said the ward, with a forced smile ;) but we are apt to enumerate advantages, when we wish to increase our satisfaction.”

“ That is true (rejoined the Rector) and though in the enumeration of the many pleasures which must accrue to us by such an union, I never had a thought of making my ward in the least dearer to me on that account.”

“ Perhaps (said she, still forcing the smile) you have lately seen such an alteration in me, as to raise an indifference in your mind, and therefore you was not solicitous enough to include me within the satisfaction you mention.”

“ That I have seen the alteration I will not deny (rejoined the Rector;) with pain I have seen it; but it has not lessened my ward in my eyes, on the contrary endeared her more to me from her confidence, having in-

trusted me with the cause, and it is for that reason I made the proposal of a journey to London. I see no difference either in Mr. Hamilton being *married* to Miss Collone, or in being grown *inconstant* and *fickle*; not that I can yield my mind to believe he is either: But (continued he, taking her hand) supposing it is so, in society, and a circle of amiable friends, my ward may possibly be enabled to select *one* who may sink the merit of Mr. Hamilton into oblivion; of this I am certain Miss Capel, in the most brilliant assembly, will never pass unnoticed."

After some small hesitation Miss Capel said, "If I had not thought, Sir, that you held the present conversation to divert me, I should answer you more seriously: However, I do believe you know, and think better of me, than to suppose I could so soon change my sentiments, if there are those who can; yet you say you do not believe Mr. Hamilton either married or inconstant; if necessity has obliged him to do the one,
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by which means he incurs the censure of the other, he is more intitled to my compassion than my disesteem ; nor shall I either readily or easily transfer my affections. Of this, Mr. Allen, you may rest assured, I shall neither send Augustin to London, or go myself. Your son, on a future day, may choose to investigate the matter, and I would have him : Nor do I wish that either he or Mr. Langdale to delay their marriage on that account. Marriage, you know, will give them a right, as my sisters representatives, to compel Mr. Hamilton to make good what he has already assented to ; to me it is all a matter of indifference ; the discovery never gave me any satisfaction ; a few weeks, perhaps, may make it to me as if it had never been, or I may be as if I had never been."

“ How (said the Rector, stopping her from rising, for she made a second motion, as if intending to walk) do I hear? Miss Capel so far forgot the instructions of her father as to repine, and look towards an end of her existence.

existence. Let me never hear such words fall from your lips again ; shall a disappointment make us arraign, or fly in the face of Providence ? Miss Capel, you was, not so taught, I am sure."

As he held her hand, a tear fell from her eye upon it, which the Rector observing, and supposing it was occasioned by the earnestness of his rebuke, stood up, and then said, — " Come, Miss Capel, shall we walk into the house ?"

On which she arose, and saying, " I ask your pardon, Sir ;" but on his perceiving her so much agitated as to tremble, he offered her his arm, which being accepted, they walked by the side of the river till they came to a field, which they were to cross, and passing through a white gate, which her father had placed there for their conveniency in walking to the water-side, Mr. Allen perceived his boy Joe running towards him, when disengaging his arm from Miss Capel, only

only said, "that he was wanted he supposed," and hastening his steps, soon saw he had a letter in his hand, when observing the superscription addressed to him, and signed *Free, Marr*, told that he was alive ; but the dread of the contents on his ward's account, made him so doubtful in opening it, that she joined him before he was aware, with this long-expected letter still unsealed in his hand, while the word *Marr* catching her eye, "Mr. Allen," said she, earnestly, "you have got a letter?"

"Yes," he replied; "shall I open it here?"

"No, no!" she returned, with trepidation; "let us reach the house first, which ever way the contents terminate; you *only* know how much it must affect me."

They then, with quick and trembling steps, advanced toward the house, when the Rector threw himself on the first chair which offered,

while Miss Capel hastened to the other side of the room, as if wishing to remain still at a distance from what she dreaded to hear, when, without speaking, he broke the seal, and opening the packet, he found a letter addressed to his ward, which telling her, she begged him to read his own first; "it may be a preparatory admonition," said she.

"I should be sorry if Miss Capel wants such a stimulative," returned the Rector.

"We have often imaginary fortitude (she returned) which always fails us when put to the trial."

"I do not believe my ward possesses an imaginary virtue," said the guardian, and then unfolding the letter began to read to himself, while his ward sat in extreme agitation watching every movement of his features, which as he proceeded gave strong indications of dissatisfaction, which observation raised such contending emotions in her bosom, as, had
he

he cast his eyes off, on her, would have told him all her present fortitude was imaginary.

As soon as he had read the letter, Miss Capel addressed him, — “Well, Sir!”

“My dear (returned the Rector) you must summon your resolution to your aid.”

“Is Mr. Hamilton married, Sir?” she replied.

“No,” said he, “nor is he going.

“Well then, Sir, read the letter to me, said she) while I look over you: I can’t read it myself; let it be what it will I must bear it.”

“That (returned the Rector) was said like Miss Capel, and though he found she thought she could sustain any disappointment but his marriage with Miss Collone, yet was there a trial in this letter of which she had

never yet an intimation. He might have been drowned it is true, in his rash perseverance in leaving Lisbon; but her mind was soon relieved from that apprehension by a change of weather; in the present instance she was to suffer the torture of anticipation; the certainty of the hour was to arrive, when his life might fall a sacrifice to a false point of honor by the hand of an unprincipled man, at the time her heart told her that his safety and happiness were the ultimatum of all comfort to her, even were she never to see him again.

The guardian on this request read the letter aloud, while the ward hung over his shoulder trembling, and eagerly tracing every word, anticipating the avowed evil, though unaware of its extent, the Rector read as follows:

LETTER.

LETTER.

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ The length of time, which has elapsed since I parted from you, and those your lovely ward's (dear to me on many accounts) must, I fear, have imprest your mind with ideas unfavorable to my conduct; but when you reflect on the agony of mind I then endured, aided too by the natural violence of a too ungovernable temper, you will not be surpris'd when I tell you, that, by the time I reached my late father's house, the agitation was too powerful to be stem'd by either youth or reflection: I therefore sunk under the pressure of contending passions, and lay fourteen days, while nature and disease strove for the mastery, having the physicians as spectators of a contest their powers could neither mollify or subdue. During this period they buried my father, as my situation seemed to portend a quick succession after him: Youth however assayed what skill was insufficient to effect,

effect, and at that time I recovered, the fever abated, my senses and recollection returned, reflection again resumed her station: But, alas! to what purpose? I have lost Miss Capel, and therefore cannot have a wish to live. I presumptuously resist the admonitions you, my friend, gave, and yet with the waves had buried me in their silent bosom. But why should I look back to a fate I was preserved from, when every hour brings me nearer to *one*, honour obliges me to face; though I have lost the esteem of Miss Capel, who, if you have related my situation to her, can think no otherwise than that my conduct to her was masked with duplicity? But it is not Miss Collone who occasions the contention; that young Lady is (as she always was) an indifferent object to my eye. Mr. Allen, next Saturday is the day fixed on, when Sir James Collone and myself are to decide a point of honour with pistols in Hyde-Park. It is not for Miss Collone (I repeat) that I am going to arm against her father's life; nor is it for Miss Capel that I hazard

hazard my own. Sir James took an unwarrantable advantage of my absence, and my parent's imbecility, which he now defies me to evade, upbraids me with the conduct of my father to the late Lord Marr and his family; and on my assurance of their being found, he, with a contemptuous sarcasm, intimates a doubt of my veracity. Thus by a conduct (ever the result of an unprincipled mind) he dares me to risque that life he wishes I should dedicate to the happiness of his daughter; but such are the excentricities of man; cruel custom, which compels us to adopt a mode, called honour, which the soul revolts from: I am happy in the reflection, however, that I have not sought the occasion, nor shall I incur a crime, for I will not attempt his life, however revenge and malice may make him aim to curtail mine. On consulting some Gentlemen, eminent in the conveyancing line, I find my father could not dispose of the paternal estates, as they are entailed on the title. I shall settle my affairs before the morning arrives, when every circumstance

circumstance relative to your ward will be satisfactorily adjusted. If I fall, my friend, who met me at Lisbon, will inform you of the event. The knowledge I have of the amiable disposition of Miss Capel induces me to believe she will give a tear to my fate; precious relique, let it hang crys-
tallized over my tomb, and tell her—but no, I will presume to address a line to her myself; wishing you and your's every felicity, I shall remain to the last,

Dear Sir, your affectionate friend,

HENRY DACRE MARR."

The Rector had no sooner finished reading the letter to his ward, than raising her eyes, suffused in tears, and folding her hands in each other, she exclaimed, "Now ^{are} ~~is~~ my misfortunes completed! Mr. Allen, teach me (for I am yet to learn) that lesson which can give consolation, or that fortitude which can sustain an evil like this. Do you not see
that

that we have injuriously accused *him* who never acted wrong? Will he die before we have received his pardon for the supposition? Or let me die, that I may never know he had a sufficient power of resentment, as to refuse such an acknowledgment from us."— She then, seating herself, gave relief to her over-burdened heart by a torrent of tears, the Rector standing by her with her letter unopened, and incapable of either answering her request, or attempting to mollify, by a seasonable exhortation, that trouble, which he really himself knew she was susceptible of feeling. At last he said, "You will not read this letter, Miss Capel, I suppose? when she took the handkerchief from her eyes, and looking at him earnestly, said, "Why should I suppress that letter, Sir, it cannot lessen or increase the present perturbation of my mind? But, Mr. Allen, you will ever remember, that my being compelled to leave this place has involved me in troubles, which no time can either soften or disperse; a recollection of accumulated misfortunes must cloud my
future

future days, if the present weight don't give a premature release from every sorrow or joy, which may hang over the succeeding hours of my life."

"Shall I read this letter (said the Rector) or will you read it yourself?" It was the only resource he thought remaining, and wished therefore to know the contents.

"If you please, Sir, to read it to me," said the ward.

"Shall I break the seal, then?" he returned.

"If you please, Sir," was her answer; when the Rector broke the impression of those arms, her father's seal that hung to her watch, which would have identified the truth of their descent in the comparison, as they were a counterpart of each other, and as she rested her head (covered with a handkerchief) on her hand, he read the sentiments
of

of a heart which Miss Capel, now with extreme regret knew, had never deviated from his attachment to her; at the moment he told the fatal necessity, which a point of honour obliged him to hazard her ever seeing him again, aggravated with the additional reflection of his having prepossessed himself with the thought, that the discovery had alienated all regard for him from her breast, and that he might be, by the pistol of an assassin (as the Rector termed it) deprived of his existence without the satisfaction of knowing to the contrary, the Rector obeyed, his ward, and read the letter.

CHAP.

C H A P. XLIX.

"**I**MPRESSED as Miss Capel must be, by a conduct bearing the appearance of duplicity, I may dare at this moment (when, perhaps, a few days may terminate my existence) avow to her my candor, loveliest as most amiable of women, let not resentment (which never yet found refuge in your bosom) now lead you to censure the son, for what his father's too prompt disposition led him to commit: Be assured I am the man my heart first wished you to believe me to be. If I have forfeited that claim, I am conscious I do not merit the sacrifice, however

ever I must submit to the mandate. My letter to Mr. Allen will spare me the repetition of an engagement I am compelled to accept, though repugnant to my sentiments as a man and a Christian. Let me not pain the susceptible heart of Miss Capel by repeating, that if I fall, my *will* will fully ascertain what property will devolve to her, and those lovely twins, her sisters, as heirs to their late father. If I survive, but my mind is too much oppressed to raise any sanguinary wish; should that happen, I beg of you most earnestly a pardon for errors inadvertently committed. I know Miss Capel's heart will prompt her to give a sigh to my fate, perhaps a tear; in that consolatory assurance, I may be permitted to say, which ever way destiny shall dispose of me in the approaching conflict, my first and last thought will then, and ever, dwell on Miss Capel.

HENRY DACRE MARR."

This

This second confirmation, far from mollifying (as the Rector had hoped) the agonizing tremors of Miss Capel's mind, who, he thought, might have recovered from the first apprehensions, so far (at least) as to have reflected on them with resignation and calmness; but the moment he repeated the subscription of Henry Dacre, she rose from her seat, and making directly towards the door, as if intending to quit the room, nature too powerful to be restrained, wrested her progress, and she sunk down senseless on the floor. The good Rector, who, during all the revolutions he had undergone (even in the apprehension of his son's delinquency) since he had undertaken the protection of this deserted family, had never experienced a situation so critical, he flew to her, and attempted to raise her; but when he found the functions of life appeared suspended, he began to upbraid himself for his incautious conduct. "I should (said he) have secreted the first letter in my pocket;" but as no time now would admit of investigation, he hastily rung the parlour

parlour bell, when Augustin being near, he came to the summons, and opening the door, and seeing his Lady lie extended on the floor, he (for the guardian had not been able to raise her to a seat) began to lament the fate of the favorite of his late Lord, in terms congenial to his feelings, by exclaiming, —
“ Ah! what would my Lord have said to have seen this day, my young Lady born to affluence and honor, lying on the floor dead?”

“ She is not dead (said the Rector) it is only a fainting fit, from terror and apprehension. Do you raise her in your arms, and convey her to her chamber, when we will soon bring her again to life.”

Augustin instantly did as the Rector had bidden; when taking his Lady up across his arms, he went from the parlour to the stairs, where he was met by Mrs. Allen, who had just arrived from the Parsonage to dinner, and seeing the countenance of Miss Capel, which strongly resembled that of a dead person,

son, and presently after seeing her master (as she called Mr. Allen) equally pale, though not lifeless, began herself to lament in reality, what was only imaginary, and knowing the Rector had long expected a letter from Mr. Hamilton, concluded hastily from the appearance, that what they had apprehended at Lisbon, had really happened when she took Mr. Allen by the arm, asking, at the same time, "Is it so indeed? Is Mr. Hamilton drowned?"

"Drowned! (repeated the Rector) No, it is worse than that."

"Worse! (said Mrs. Allen) How can that be?" when the guardian following his ward up-stairs, Mrs. Allen went after them, and laying her on the bed without any signs of life, while Mrs. Allen and the maid-servant chaff'd her temples with hartshorn, and applied other specifics without success, Mr. Allen at the same time entreating Augustin to bleed her, who absolutely refused, as the
trepidation

trepidation of his own nerves might (he said) endanger a life which was apparently gone. On his peremptory refusal, they were obliged to have recourse to a person who lived beyond the Parsonage a mile, and occasionally visited the neighbourhood, could use a lancet, and as necessity required, often administered drugs and chemical preparations, which he kept ready analyzed, in a little thatched tenement, part of which he called his *shop*, and a less proportion of ground was assigned for the occupation of the *laboratory*; in both of these this Gentleman walked with stately consequence, though seldom called on, but by a child for a pennyworth of *Turner's cerat*, or the more important purchase of an ounce of *cream of tartar*, for health, rosy goddess, had fixed her residence here, while content, with cheerful innocence, went hand in hand, as her attendants, dancing to the festive measures of the revolving seasons, each salubrious as they alternately returned.

This personage being called, with the utmost dispatch, made his entrance at the cottage, and in the bedchamber of the daughter of the Earl of Marr. His appearance bore no indications of his profession; he had on a black wig, and, contrary to professional men in general, who usually wear dark cloaths, his habit was a sky-blue coat, scarlet waistcoat, and crimson plush breeches) his Sunday suit, which he had hastily put on for the visit) and thus accoutred, with formality of knowledge, walked to the bedside of his patient, who lay still lifeless; when Mr. Allen telling him, “that the young Lady having met with a sudden surprise, which had occasioned the situation he found her in, he had sent for *him*, as thinking bleeding might possibly be the readiest means to restore life, and give animation to exhausted nature.”

“Sir,” replied this son of Galen, “give me leave to judge of the most proper means to revive this beauteous flower, when feeling her pulse, *gone! gone!* (said he) Yes, phlebotomy

botomy is recommended in such cases; but, pray, Mr. Allen, how long has this young Lady lived here, that I have never had the honor of being acquainted with the family before?"

"Sir (said Mr. Allen) we wish dispatch;" on which he took out a case of lancets, and having tied up her lovely arm, the Gentleman performed his office with dexterity, and as the blood flowed rapidly after the incision, nature began to resume her seat; she opened her eyes, and only saying, "Where am I?" sunk her head on her pillow, while the emotion of her expression not only told, her recollection was returned, but that she was truly sensible who *she was*.

The Doctor, on viewing the blood, pronounced his opinion, that from the inflammation, he apprehended there was danger of a fever; and though, Mr. Allen, I attend my neighbours, I would recommend the early admission of a physician; there is a very

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capable

capable Gentleman lives at Brittleworth, and if my assistance is necessary, I am at your service; nor would I have you delay.—Mr. Allen thanking him for his sincerity, slipped a half guinea into his hand, a coin he having not possessed for many years, brought many bows, with repeated wonders that he could not recollect having ever seen that young Lady; but more did he marvel that no occasion had ever required his presence there before. He now took his leave, recommending quiet and a physician; when the next moment brought Mr. Langdale and the sisters to the door, who seeing his countenance expressive of trouble, eagerly asked “what was the matter?” and being informed, they both flew to her chamber, where their cries and lamentations soon convinced those who were spectators, that Miss Capel was sensible of their distress, though she was deprived of the power of acknowledging their tenderness.

During

During their absence Mr. Allen informed Mr. Langdale and Charles of the occasion, and shewed them the letter, and they were both of opinion to set out immediately, and if possible prevent the consequences, by frustrating the meeting; but the Rector told them he knew Mr. Hamilton much better than they either did, and an attempt of that kind would offend beyond forgiveness; besides the letter had been three days coming, and it would be impossible for them to reach London before it was finally settled one way or the other; it was therefore determined to leave Mr. Hamilton to his fate, but to take the utmost care of Miss Capel for his sake, if motives of the utmost admiration and regard did not lead them to do it for their own: The physician was therefore to be sent for immediately, and Augustin hearing the determination, begged he might be commissioned for the office, as he would engage to bring him with the utmost dispatch.

In consequence of this declaration, Augustin was furnished with one of Mr. Langdale's horses, when he set out speed for Britlesworth, and being directed by Mr. Allen to call on an apothecary whom he knew, was by him sent to Doctor S——, who, on a message being carried into his study, that a Gentleman's black servant wanted to speak to him. — The servant was ordered to conduct the black into the parlour, when Augustin made his appearance before Doctor S——, who was sitting alone, and inquiring his business, he told him "his young Lady lay dangerously ill, about fourteen miles off, where his attendance was immediately required."

"Who sent you to me?" said the Doctor.

"Mr. Allen, Sir, sent me to Mr. W——, the apothecary, who directed me to your house," said Augustin.

"Mr.

"Mr. W—— I know," returned the Doctor; "but who is Mr. Allen? I do not know him."

"He is a clergyman," replied Augustin.

"A clergyman!" said the Doctor; "and pray who is your young Lady, or at least tell me who you are?"

Augustin, intimidated by these interrogatories, brought a faint recollection to his view, and humbly bowing, only said, "My name, Sir, is Augustin."

It is to be observed, that Doctor S—— had been a physician of great eminence in Westminster, and had retired about seven years to his native place, Brittleworth, where he always attended when requested, more from benevolence and employment, than any emolument he wished to receive. He had, during his early practice, been an attendant in the family of the late Earl of Marr, was his

intimate friend, and lived there to be a witness to his disgrace, his attainder, and his destruction of property, but not of person; was one of the first to condemn the conduct of Lord George Dacre, his brother, as well as solicitous to find the retreat of the injured man. With these propensities on his mind, he had left town to end his days in retirement, so that when Augustin appeared before him, though he had lost recollection of the domestic, there was an innate principle which provoked the interrogatories, so that he could not resist the impulse of asking who his Lady, as well as who he himself were, without looking to any satisfaction in the answer, or even to expect one.

“ And pray, Sir (said the Doctor) who is your Lady, or, at least, tell me who you are ?”

“ He replied, “ My name, Sir, is Augustin.”

The

The name struck Doctor S——; it vibrated on his ears. "Augustin!" he repeated.

The repetition made Augustin reply, with a "Yes, Sir!"

"Then who," said the Doctor, "is your young Lady?"

Augustin, who had been intimidated by the questions he did not expect to be asked, and more by the repetition, thinking too, that their obscurity had been too long hid from the world, on the Doctor's saying, "Who is your young Lady?" bowing, answered, "Lady Gertrude Dacre."

"Who!" interrogated the Doctor, being warmed by a name once familiar to him, "Lady Gertrude Dacre! How dare you tell me so?"

Augustin, whose irritable propensities were never so much alive as when any intelligence of his was doubted, respecting the identity of his late Lord's family, replied, with great earnestness, "Yes, Sir, Lady Gertrude Dacre, the eldest daughter of the late disgraced Earl of Marr."

"Do you not recollect me then?" said Doctor S——.

"Why," said Augustin, "you are surely not the Doctor S—— who attended my late Lady, Lady Gertrude's mother?"

This question confirmed the Doctor in his belief, who then asked, "Where his Lady lived?" and with a timid accent, said, "My worthy friend, is he too alive?"

Augustin on this held down his head with visible emotion, which the Doctor interpreting, "Well, then, your Lord is no more!"

"He

"He has been dead above six months," said Augustin.

"Where did he die?" asked the Doctor.

"At the house my Ladies now reside at," he replied.

"What, at only fourteen miles from this place?" said Doctor S——.

"He had lived there fourteen years," said Augustin.

"And have I lived only fourteen miles from your master for seven years, and we have never met, nor he been found?"

"I don't wonder you never met my Lord," said Augustin, "as he always staid at home, and to his being found, you won't be surprised at that, when you see the retreat he had chosen, which, Sir, I shall be glad you would

with me visit, as my Lady's case is dangerous."

"That I will," said Doctor S——, "attend the daughter of that amiable man," when ordering a post-chaise and four, he took Augustin into the carriage with him, while his servant rode the horse, where he related every circumstance relative to his master and his servivors, his daughters, omitting nothing but the primary cause of Miss Capel's illness, which he was not acquainted with; during which the only improbable part of the history to the Doctor was, his having lived seven years in the vicinity of that neighbourhood, which concealed the man, he, with many others, had been so solicitous to restore to his lost honours; but it was not in such a retreat he was sought for; France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, the Netherlands, Savoy, Piedmont, Switzerland, and even the villages, at the feet of the Glacis, had been traced by his friends or agents, while the humble and peaceable Ham-
let

let of *Camsang* had not been suspected of secreting such a treasure, or less, that three beautiful infants had taken refuge with him there, and reared from childhood to maturity, unknown, unblazoned to the world, tho' blooming in all the graces of youth, beauty, birth, and opulence.

C H A P. L.

WHEN the carriage stopped at the gate of the cottage, Mr. Allen was the first who met Doctor S——, and with a face expressive of much anxiety, said, “I am glad, Sir, to see you.”

“How is the young Lady?” said the Doctor.

“We are not capable of answering that question,” replied Mr. Allen; “but from appearances very ill.” They then moved towards the sick chamber, when the Rector led

led the way, where on entering, and Doctor S—— observing the beauty, as well as features, of the twins, who were sitting on each side of the bed, he could not help exclaiming, “Now am I convinced these bear the features of the late Countess of Marr!” —

The words were only noticed by Mr. Allen, who could not but wonder at the reference; when the Doctor taking his seat by his patient, and examining her pulse, the only indication he had to go by, and asking a few questions of Mrs. Allen, returned with her guardian to the parlour, when being informed what had been already administered, with the request that a physician might be called in, he gave great credit to the sincerity of the man, as well as to his knowledge.

“Bleeding (said Doctor S——) in such a situation as he found the Lady, was the only expedient to restore animation; at the same time it checked a fever, which required stimulatives. This he was sensible of, when too late to profit by the knowledge, he acted
like

like an honest man: I should like, Sir, to know the rise of the disorder from you. I am not unacquainted that the Lady under my care is the Lady Gertrude Dacre, and daughter of my once particular friend."

" Sir (replied the Rector, from some expression which fell from you on entering that Lady's apartment) I found you did; but if so, why not found before?"

" Sir (returned Doctor S——) they were found as soon as known." He then related all that had passed between him and Augustin, concluding with his own observation, " that it were hardly possible to think two such intimate friends could live only fourteen miles distance for the space of seven years, and never meet or hear of each other!"

Mr. Allen then confirmed what Augustin had said; that, considering all circumstances, it was not to be wondered at, especially as he had been so cautious as not even to admit a
news-

news-paper, or any periodical work, an entrance.

“ However (said the Rector) this injunction was violated, a trespass, which has ultimately brought them to be known, and the eldest daughter to the condition she now lays in, your wonder too, Sir, will considerably diminish, when I tell you, that I never exchanged more than a bow with the late Mr. Capel (for that was the name he adopted) during the time I have enjoyed the *benefice*; if he chanced to stray from his house, on seeing me, he would strike into another path, and avoid a meeting.”

“ Very extraordinary ! (said Doctor S—) but not so when the virtue and integrity of the man is considered. But no more of that, I feel it my duty to recover his daughter, if I can. Augustin has informed me minutely of every transaction he was acquainted with. Lord George Dacre is dead I find; he has left a son, a very amiable man I know he is:

I attended him in a fever when a boy at Westminster school. He then promised to be what I find he is. The meeting was extraordinary; a mind of sensibility must be affected by such a discovery. Do you think Lady Gertrude's illness proceeds from that cause? The death of her father, tho' recent, cannot have had such a violent effect now, do you think the disease on the body or mind?"

"Sir (said Mr. Allen) Miss Capel (for by that name she wishes to be called) still laments the death of her father."

"But you do not think that the cause of her present illness?" said the Doctor. Augustin intimated something relative to the young Lord Marr. "Be candid, Mr. Allen, for the sake of the young Lady now under our care."

Mr. Allen, thus pressed, related all that he knew, and in confidence shewed him the letters of Lord Marr, concluding with his
convinced

convinced opinion, "that her present rapid illness was entirely owing to her apprehensions for his personal safety, willing to relinquish every comfort respecting herself, so it promoted his happiness," adding, at the same time, "that her health had visibly been declining for some time; but that her anxiety must soon now have a final period, as a week at most would determine the fate of Lord Marr."

The Doctor then wrote a prescription which was necessary to be immediately had, therefore the thatched-house apothecary was again called for, and made his appearance before Doctor S——, with the prescribed odorific in his hand, when the Doctor asking him if the chemical and drugs were pure, was answered with much solemnity, "Sir, I prepare the *one* and collect the other *myself*; you are at liberty to analyze both." This assertion was not to be disputed, they therefore went together to the bedside of Miss Capel, who, though in a state of insensibility, with

with difficulty gave her two spoonfuls of the medicine, and the Doctor, as he was questioned respecting her situation by her anxious guardian, assuring him there was no immediate danger, as the disease was more on the mind than the body, where time would operate towards a cure, left the cottage, with a promise of returning the next day, and having seated himself in the carriage, returned to Brittleworth, ruminating all the way on the discovery, lamenting his loss in the society he might have enjoyed with such a friend, without reflection on the cause, which must ever have kept them at a distance.

CHAP.

C H A P. LI.

THE next day Doctor S—— returned to a house which had already more attachment for him than his own, where he found his patient still in a state of insensibility, though her breath was free. As he now knew her disorder he came prepared, and brought the apothecary from Brittleworth with a travelling medicinal chest, and as they continued there till the evening with no visible alteration, a blister was prepared, which was to be laid on at night. The apothecary being introduced to the cottage, was made acquainted with the extraordinary history, and

and on seeing the twins, who were at dinner, after they had left the room, told an anecdote of his having occasion to be out early one morning in the summer, when he met, in a farmer's waggon, two beautiful girls, with a Lady much older. The delicacy and elegant appearance of both, though in such a carriage, had made an impression on his mind, that he was indefatigable in finding the farmer, who then only told him that; "Nay, for the matter of that, he canna tell where they were heighing unto:" But the apothecary added, "he had a suspicion they were on no good intent, and now that I have seen those two beauteous young Ladies, I have in them found my fugitives, and it was from this secluded cottage they had fled."

The two Doctors again left the cottage, and no alteration appearing in Miss Capel, the blister was applied by Mrs. Allen, which, on the following day, on the Doctor's returning, not having answered the purpose, another was added to the stomach, and this
having

having brought them to Saturday, a day which was to decide the fate of Lord Marr, the house, wherein every countenance wore the face of anxiety and sorrow, as well on his account as on that of the fair sufferer, the Rector, whose goodness of heart led him to feel himself interested equally for the health and happiness of both.

However, in the night, or rather Sunday morning, Miss Capel had turned herself in bed, with an oh! as if she felt pain, and when the morning advanced, that the family began to stir, and day-light had enlivened the room, Mrs. Allen, on looking on her, saw her eyes were opened, and though she did not speak, yet they looked with expression, which indicated that her senses were returned, and that the second blister had succeeded. This surmise was, however, soon after confirmed, for on Mrs. Allen hearing her move, and going to the bedside, Miss Capel motioning her to put her head down to the

the pillow, in a whisper, said to her, "Mrs. Allen, what day is it?"

"Sunday morning, my dear", replied Mrs. Allen.

"Sunday morning! (she repeated) Sunday morning! where have I been? Oh! (said she, clasping her hands together) I am glad it is Sunday morning."

This conversation being related to the Rector and the company, convinced them all of the return of her reason, and that she did not so much rejoice that Sunday was come, as that Saturday was past; and the physician arriving, he, on seeing her, was able to assure them, that all danger was now at a distance; but though he appeared at the bedside, and with every endearing expression of a father, invited her to tell complaints he knew she would not reveal, yet he could not get her to speak till he was gone, when she hastily asked Mrs. Allen "who that Gentleman

tleman was?" and being told "he was a physician," then, "I suppose you had him called to save such an unfortunate life as mine?" This observation, which shewed that success had attended their skill, so far as to mollify the effect, though the cause had only found an emollient by throwing the dreaded event behind, and that she had to lament what might have happened, and not to look to an insupportable evil yet to arrive.

The following day her fever was so much abated, that Doctor S—— advised that she should endeavour to get up, to divert her mind from meditating on misfortunes. In this second visit she did speak to him graciously, said she was better, thanked him for his kindness; but Mr. Allen having cautioned him from saying he had any knowledge of her father, or who he was, he was obliged to suppress those tender emotions of his heart, and while he addressed her by the name of Miss Capel, was restrained from telling how

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much he valued the friendship of her father; at the same time that he could have gratified the first impulse of her heart, in giving to that parent, whose memory she adored, every testimony of respect for his virtues, as well as abhorrence of those who had drove him into a seclusion from the world.

Though the medicines, and other stimulatives to animation, had succeeded so far as to restore life and reflection, yet that reflection brought with it a remembrance, which every vibration of the pulse implied was not to be forgotten, and Tuesday being now arrived, all were in anxious expectation of a letter from Mr. Hamilton (they would not allow themselves to suppose one to come from his friend) yet, when they were before her, they all appeared to be quite at ease, and not at all solicitous about any thing. — Miss Capel was not insensible of the flight of time since Saturday; she watched all their successive features as alternately they visited her, the guardian's more especially, for her confidence

confidence in him was such, that she was certain his very looks could not deceive; even Doctor S—— was observed with an attention, which would have been flattering to an old bachelor of sixty-three, had he not known the cause; but as she was insensible that he knew any thing, much less that he knew so much, her countenance on this morning expressed to him, and all present, how her heart suffered; for on his coming up the stairs, which were not so accommodated with light as those in the residence of Cavendish-Square, when about sixteen years ago he attended her in the whooping cough, he chanced to hit a toe, which had often made him sensible he was not philosopher enough not to think *pain* an *evil*, by several inroads on that doctrine, from the severity of the *gout*, and crying out oh! while the blow caused a flush on his face expressive of agitation, and at the same time entering her apartment, the apparent want of his accustomed placidity on his features, made her rise from her seat, and meeting him, said,

“Don’t, Sir, be apprehensive of communicating any thing to me ; I have strength of mind sufficient to bear it.”

“My dear Miss Capel (returned the Doctor) I have nothing to communicate ; an old man will stumble : I have only hit my gouty toes against the stairs. What should I have to tell you ?” affecting ignorance.

This question brought her to recollect the Doctor was a stranger to the family, and unacquainted with what was the primary spring of all her thoughts, she therefore walked to the window to hide an emotion her inadvertency had occasioned, while tears, which strayed down her cheeks, on her return, told him, “that, however he might pride himself on his judgment as a physician, there was one unacquainted with the pharmacopeial art, whose means would do more towards her recovery, than ever he had been able to attain, even in the most critical situation of the most critical disorders.”

CHAP.

C H A P. LII.

AT length Wednesday arrived, and at the meridian of that day a letter came to the Parsonage, by the tardy conveyance of the butcher's boy, a letter that was to confirm or reject all happiness as an inmate in the breast of the daughter of the Earl of Marr. Why not a winged Mercury for such an embassy? But winged Mercuries were not then in fashion, at least not the taste of the inhabitants of Camfang and the cottage; slow flowed intelligence over the verdant mead, the whistling rustic, insensible of his charge, trotted blind Dobbin over the rugged path;

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that

that oft with weary steps his Sire had prest ; joyous he past, unheedful, and unheeded, when from his woollen jacket, at the Parsonage gate, a loud halloo announced the courier, and Mr. Allen being near, he hastily caught the apprehended mandate, so full of portentous information, when retiring into his study, the address told him it was not Lord Marr's hand-writing ; but the seal not signifying death, the good man stood irresolute : " He may not be dead (said he) but he may be severely wounded, perhaps mortally."

Charles coming seasonably into the room, while his father's features were fluctuating between hope and despair, seeing the letter, asked, " If it was from Mr. Hamilton ?"

" No (said his father) it is from his friend : I dread the contents."

" Why, Sir, increase your troubles by protracting them ? Shall I open it ?"

" Do,

"Do, child (returned the Rector) when Charles broke the seal, and soon dissipated his father's anxiety by the following information."

"DEAR SIR,

"I am requested by Lord Marr to let you know, that the important transaction of Saturday terminated without any other injury than a ball going through the fleshy part of his Lordship's right arm, which has rendered him incapable of writing himself, as the surgeon advises quiet, as well for the wound as a slight fever which attends it, though neither of any material consequence. I had the honour to be his Lordship's second in an affair falsely stiled honour, into which he was compelled to engage by a man devoid of every principle under that denomination. His Lordship had the chance of the first fire, which (as he said he would) he discharged into the air, when Sir James, in return, with a malice unexampled, after such generous conduct,

duct, directly aimed at his heart. The ball, however, only pierced his arm. This rencounter has been so much to the honour of Lord Marr, that Sir James has thought it convenient to leave the kingdom, and is gone for France and Italy, while his amiable and lovely daughter, sensible of her father's duplicity, as well as want of integrity in his conduct, partial too in her heart to the unequalled merit of your friend and mine, has taken an asylum in the country seat of her parent, to lament the ill-judged conduct of the one, or, perhaps, too fatally to deplore the false illusion, which had led her to hope the possession of the other.

“ Give me leave, Sir, to congratulate you on the safety of our common friend, a young Nobleman whose comprehensive understanding, whose refinement of education, and whose virtues, which consist in the fulfilling of every moral duty, makes him an ornament to his country, and a happy presage towards the future prospects of those who are intimately connected

connected with him, either by friendship, consanguinity, or love. The private concerns, the event of Saturday, made him (prior to that day) necessarily acquaint me with, and from thence I learn, that the daughters of the late Earl of Marr, his uncle, from whom he derives the title, and a large estate, are immediately under your patronage; these have undoubtedly a first claim to his friendship, and the tie of relation; and from what I see (by the anxiety of his mind, which has produced the fever more than any pain he has suffered from his wound) as well as impatient expressions that fall from his lips, (for he is warm and sanguine in his temper) lead me to judge, love has not the least share in urging that impatience, which at present prompts him so readily to yield to the impulse of his passions. The transporting description he has given of your beautiful ward, makes me solicitous for a view of so much beauty and perfection; but he tells me I must gaze at a distance, as the twins are engaged in a reciprocal union of affection;

and for the other, I fear, were I even to express an approbation of her accomplishment, I might lose the regard of my friend, though were I to censure I might incur his everlasting displeasure. The length of this letter can only, Sir, be pardoned by you from the subject, and I must add, the discovery of the Ladies is one among those sports of fortune, which we can neither ascertain or conjecture, that Lord Marr should live fourteen years undiscovered in his own country, when all others had been traced in vain by his friends to find him, may be added as a phenomena that are never to be accounted for, and seldom occur ! Lord Marr begs to join his best regard to you ; he cannot express himself in respect to the claim he has on the affections of his new-found relations, in which your son and Mr. Langdale have a share.

I am, Sir, with esteem,

Your very humble servant,

AUGUSTUS HARVEY."

The Rector no sooner heard the letter, than every sensation of joy gladdened his features, and he was for carrying it directly to Miss Capel, if Charles had not corrected his zeal by representing how dangerous it would be to alarm her already too agitated system abruptly : However, nothing could prevent him from going immediately to the cottage, and communicating the contents to Mr. Langdale and Miss Emily and Mary. To this Charles assented, and accompanied his father, when, on the letter being again read, it appeared, that Lord Marr could be privy to no part of the contents, but what he had requested Colonel Harvey to write, respecting his personal safety, and the concluding complimentary expression which followed of course, and as the Colonel, in his voluntary description of his friend, as well as of the disposition of his mind, had not mentioned a word of his intentions of soon visiting the cottage ; it was plain no such declaration had passed the lips of his Lordship ; on the contrary, it appeared, by his wishes

to see the daughters of Lord Marr, his friend had placed that satisfaction at a distance, by intimating their engagements, which could afford him no hopes of success, should he become enamoured, and therefore cautioned him, against hazarding an interview, by damping his ardour, and not by any overture of his own, encourage him in the hope of seeing them; the Rector was therefore over-ruled in his argument, and it was carried unanimously (himself excepted) that Miss Capel should not see the letter at all. The guardian's argument, however forcible it might be, that Colonel Harvey's not saying he would come, was to be taken in an imply'd sense, that he certainly would not, for, in my opinion (added the Rector) his silence on that subject indicates to me, that we shall assuredly see him soon. This logic was not admitted; the letter was to remain in the pocket of the Rector till her impatience might appear so visible as to require a mitigation, or till more and juster grounds might arise as would afford her satisfaction; it was therefore

therefore concluded they were all to appear, after their anxiety was suppressed, as if it still continued in force, and as the hour was near when they expected Doctor S——, Mr. Allen was the person fixed on, who was to make the first trial, and to wear a countenance which contradicted the sentiments of his heart; he therefore ascended the stairs towards the chamber of Miss Capel, who was that day to come down to dinner, and was planning the compliment he should pay her, on conducting her again into the parlour, these thoughts gave that natural sincerity to his features, which ever spoke the dictates of his heart, with the additional satisfaction he felt on hearing of Mr. Hamilton's safety, set him so far from the conduct he was enjoined to observe, that the moment he entered, his countenance was so expressive of his feelings, that on his saying, "Well, my ward, I am come to (she would not let him add) see you down stairs:"

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But stopped him with, "Oh, Sir! I can read by your expressive features that your mind is relieved from an oppressive weight."

"How so?" he returned.

When Doctor S—— entered the room, and seeing his patient's eyes sparkling with animation, which every feature spoke the ideas, that Mr. Allen had received favourable intelligence of the personal safety of Lord Marr; the Doctor too, before his appearance, having been informed of the letter, as well as the conclusive part of their conduct, rejoiced to see her apparently free from every complaint, sat himself down by her, and tho' cautioned as to the immediate discovery, had forgot his first engagement, therefore taking her hand, "Now do I see Miss Capel, indeed, herself! (said Doctor S——.) Now do I see the daughter of Lord Marr as she ought to be, the daughter as the counterpart of her father, and my friend!"

"What

"What do you say, Sir?" replied Miss Capel, and her features were immediately suffused with a gloom.

"I ask your pardon (returned the Doctor) I have inadvertently expressed myself, on seeing you look so placid."

"Well then, Sir, as you have betrayed half, let me know the whole," she returned.

Mr. Allen, happy to find he had not betrayed his trust, thought he could not so well extricate himself as by encouraging the Doctor to tell his tale, he therefore enforced her request, by saying, "Well, Sir, as you have led Miss Capel to believe there is a mystery, set her mind at rest by telling it."

This conversation happened unfortunately, not to give Miss Capel any satisfaction; for she concluded, that the vivacity of Mr. Allen's features had proceeded from a recent discovery which Doctor S—— had made, which,

which, as she knew, could not lead to any intelligence of Mr. Hamilton, as his words implied, she found that her heart sickened at every intimation relative to her being the daughter of Lord Marr, though his mentioning the words, "your father," gave a sudden sensation of pleasure, mixed with regret, yet the hurry of momentary reflection led her to suppose, those endearing expressions only accompanied the acknowledged truth of his being a titled parent.

She therefore, with a countenance very different from that which was so animated, when he entered her apartment, reinforced her request, by saying, "Doctor S——, have you any thing extraordinary to discover?"

"Yes (he replied) my dear Lady Gertrude, the most extraordinary, which is, that your late father (pardon me for intruding his memory on your mind) and myself, who had been the most intimate and confidential friends,

friends, should live seven years within fourteen miles of each other, and never meet!"

"I suppose, Sir (she returned) you have had very satisfactory proofs that it might and was so," while the tears ran down her cheeks, equally from disappointment as regret."

"It is in vain to lament the cause now, (said the Doctor,) but I must ever rejoice at the event, though it was the illness of Lady Gertrude Dacre, which has given me the happiness of seeing again, and knowing his offspring."

"You are very good, Sir (she replied :) I must be happy in the increase of a friend, who was the friend of my father."

As she continued much agitated, Doctor S—— observed, "that eventual evils were to have a due portion of sorrow allotted to them, and if we indulged in grief, it became

a transgression; but I will say no more on the subject," added the Doctor.

"I suppose, Sir (Miss Capel then said) that you knew my uncle, my father's brother, Lord George Dacre?"

"I did (said Doctor S——) "and (after a pause) I know his son too, who, from the promising expectations raised of him when a boy, has at maturity answered the most sanguine wishes. It is a happy presage, Miss Capel (for I find that is the name you best love) in your finding a new society, that so near, and so connected a friend, appears so amiable."

Miss Capel looked at her watch, and observing it was near the dining hour, "Sir, (said she, addressing Doctor S——) my guardian came purposely to gallant me down to the company. I shall now be doubly supported. Why will tears intrude (and she wiped

wiped them from her eyes with her handkerchief) when I am thus sustained by my own adopted guardian, and the friend of my father?"

Doctor S—— only bowed assent.

CHAP.

C H A P. LIII.

IT is to be observed, that Doctor S—— was one of those happy characters, who, having passed his *grand climacteric*, became a spectator in the world only. He was, as before observed, an old bachelor. In his early days, his celebrity in his profession, and his abundant practice in consequence of it, had left him no leisure to think of marriage, had his inclination led him to yield to love and domestic happiness; as he grew older the passion of youth cooled, and towards the decline of life he rather shun'd than courted society; he had, during his attendance on the
the

the weaknesses of nature, often been called to the habitations of poverty and disease, while virtue, and a contented resignation to the dispensations of Providence, had sustained them more than all the aid he could bestow, then, as he followed the steps of wretchedness, want and supineness, who, sinking under the oppression of reflection, has baffled his art in brooding over anticipated evils, without giving a moment to consolatory recollection. From such scenes has he occasionally been called to the bed of riches and affluence, of debauchery and dissipation. Here he has been accused, if his success did not answer expectation, and the debauchee, the drunkard, with the voluptuary, who looked to the abundance of their fortunes as a resource from every distress, and claimed that as a refuge, which had been the cause of their calamity. Such contradiction, in the errors of human nature, had long made him look to every thing as it happened, and though he lamented in haste the loss of the society of his friend Lord Marr, a little reflection reconciled

conciled him to what had eventually happened. He had retired with only a moderate fortune, for his natural benevolence made him commiserate the wretched, however situated. He seldom left those scenes already described, but much poorer than when he entered the miserable dwelling: Besides, a sister, whom he once loved with the utmost affection, having in her youth married much against his approbation and consent, a young Gentleman, who had only a good person, and specious manner to recommend him, for he was the oldest of eight children, his father being a clergyman, who resided on a small living in Surry, and who had articked this his first-born with a very inadequate premium, to an attorney in London, and being at the time just out of his clerkship, was a writer in an office when Miss S—— became acquainted with him.

So disproportioned a settlement could not but highly offend a brother, whose partiality had made him look forward to her aggrandisement

disement in life, as she was neither deficient in personal or acquired graces, her own election therefore was now to substantiate her future fate, and she left her brother's house with no good wishes in him to see her again, though he gave her a benediction, and his hopes, that she would not be disappointed in her expectations.

It however happened that our young student, of the Inner Temple, had inherited some principles from his descent, which in part supplied the deficiencies of fortune, for he was *prudent, frugal, and industrious*, so that when he saw a prospect of a rising family, he made all three the standard of his conduct; and by the time Doctor S—— left town, for the retirement of Brittleworth, Mr. Dalton, our solicitor, with a family of seven children, was nearly as rich as the old thrifty bachelor, who had had no such incumbrances to support, which occasioned Mrs. Dalton wittily to remark, that her brother, Doctor S——, would be obliged to
leave

leave his fortune to those, whose opulence would not make them so grateful to his memory as they ought. This coming to the Doctor's knowledge, he used frequently to mention her, with the additional remark, that the huffy knowing he had no other heir than her children, was exulting in her independency: However (added the good Doctor) I must rejoice, saucy as she is, that she has a pleasure in the reflection, and for me I had rather add, than be the support of the foundation.

In this temperature of mind, with a disposition of the most open and accommodating nature, always throwing aside the solemnity of his profession the moment it became unnecessary, with a natural good constitution, which had received no alloy, but from a few fits of the gout, cheerful and contented by nature, the two greatest blessings man can possess, he used, when in society, if he chanced to fall into the company of married people, to wrap himself up in his

his own felicity, counting over the anxieties he had escaped, from missing the ill temper of a froward wife, the solicitude of an infant family, with the aggravated disappointment attending their growing, as their maturer years ; if in the company of a bachelor like himself, he would then lament the years past, without any of those comforts arising from domestic happiness, view the felicity of a numerous progeny, and quote examples of the satisfaction which must accrue from a son advancing in honour, or a daughter, whose beauty and accomplishments were the admiration of the world.

Thus Doctor S—— became the delight, as the acquisition of all companies, his natural philanthropy making his absence more regretted by his numerous acquaintance, than he was himself sensible of, and such he was when first he met the daughters of his departed friend, who, had they been in the circumstances appearances had led both Mr. Allen, and Mr. Langdale, once to have sup-

posed them to be in (the first from apprehension in his fears that it might be so, as the other, with a prompt youth, which had led him not to form a wish to the contrary, and which only the turbulency of power and levity can pardon) he would with them have parted the loaf, even to the last penny; nor have suffered the offspring of his friend to have sustained any inconvenience, while the smallest remains was in his power to prevent it.

Miss Capel moved towards the door, and was by Mr. Allen and Doctor S—— conducted to the parlour, where she was received by her sisters with unfeigned congratulations, as well as by Mr. Langdale and Captain Allen; when dinner being immediately brought in by Augustin, she again placed herself at the head of her father's table, while Doctor S—— seated himself on her left-hand, and Mr. Allen at the bottom of the table, saying, at the same time, that now her household was become numerous, he must be content with the Chaplain's chair.

Dinner

Dinner was over, and the servants withdrawn, after placing wines and various fruits on the table, when a hasty tread of horses feet in the lane drew the attention of all the company (except Miss Capel and Doctor S——, who were engaged in conversation) and their minds being engrossed (from the morning's letter) more with reflection than expectation, yet the alarm led them all involuntarily to the sound, and on two out-riders in black appearing at the gate, Miss Emily exclaimed, "It is Lord Marr! it is Mr. Hamilton!" when a post-chaise and four drove up, and Lord Marr bowing from the window, Mr. Langdale said, "It is Lord Marr!" and hastily went to the door, followed by Mr. Allen and his son, when he leaped from the carriage, and was received by them all with cordial joy, and being conducted to the parlour, made his appearance at the door in deep mourning, with his wounded arm in a crape sling.

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But the parlour gave a reception very different from the congratulations at the wicket-gate (for whatever appellation it had acquired, it was no other.) On Lord Marr's entrance, he beheld Miss Capel supported by Doctor S——, senseless, while he was calling her to life by every endearing expression of a fond father, "My dear Miss Capel, why so alarmed? I thought you told me once you had fortitude sufficient to sustain any trial? Look upon me, my angel, Lady Gertrude!" He then slap'd her hand, threw some water in her face, and concluded, "that she had no occasion to give way to these apprehensions, as Lord Marr's presence need not affect her so much."

But Doctor S——'s remonstrances Miss Capel was insensible to, as was the good Doctor, that Lord Marr was present, and heard the advice, who catching the last words, "that his presence need not alarm her," hastily turned round to quit the room, when Mr. Allen being behind him, he opened the

the study door, and going in, Mr. Hamilton followed him, expressing himself, in much perturbation of mind, "Now, Mr. Allen, I see Miss Capel abhors my sight, for the letter that my friend, Sir Augustus Hervey, wrote to you, might have prepared her for an interview, which, situated as we both are, is become absolutely necessary, and which made me hasten my visit (looking at his arm) much sooner than I was advised."

These expressions were delivered with such apparent impatience, that Mr. Allen, to mollify, as he thought, his excessive disappointment, told him, "that Miss Capel had not been shewn the letter."

"Not shewn the letter, Mr. Allen! (he repeated) What, would not Miss Capel have found a satisfaction in hearing I had escaped the malice of an assassin, and preserved my life from his vengeance, although it was not in a preference for her? But who is that Gentleman, Mr. Allen (and he caught hold

of the Rector's arm in violent agitation) whose assiduous care, and endearing expressions of affection, attempts to drive from her mind every sentiment of humanity, as well as the ties of affiance (to which consanguinity lays a claim) to centre them all in himself?"

This insinuation reflecting on the benevolence and philanthropy of Doctor S——, would, on any other occasion, have afforded Mr. Allen some mirth; but the extreme anxiety of his friend would not let him play on his sensibility by encouraging him to continue in his jealous error of an old man of sixty-three years of age, a physician, who had restored her to health and life when almost all resources had failed, and was now administering advice to the mind as well as to the body, in trying to restore her for his sake, whose name being announced too incautiously by Miss Emily, had thrown her into the condition described.

"Sir,

"Sir (said Mr. Allen) I do not know what you mean."

"Not know what I mean, Mr. Allen! (replied Lord Marr.) I say, who is that assiduous Gentleman who sits by Miss Capel? and why was my letter concealed from that young Lady? But it is evident I need not have required an explanation; Lady Gertrude was not to be alarmed with useless information."

As he still held the Rector fast by his arm during these interrogations, he replied to the last: "Why, indeed, Sir, we did not wish to alarm Miss Capel precipitately."

"Then you acknowledge the preference that Gentleman holds in Miss Capel's affections?" said Lord Marr; when letting go the Rector's arm, "It would have been friendly in you, Mr. Allen, to have given me a letter, (you had my address) without paining my too susceptible heart with a sight of his happiness;

piness ; the rest of the business might have been done by an agent. You had led me once to hope I was not indifferent to your ward ; why did you not take an early opportunity to undeceive me ; I should then never have visited the cottage."

All this conversation was, or rather all these declarations were, so incoherently, and so rapidly repeated, that Mr. Allen could get no farther than mentioning the concealing the letter, without assigning the cause, which he would have done, and made several attempts at an explanation, with "I will ;" or "indeed, Sir ;" but Lord Marr would not hear any body but himself, till now, that Doctor S—— was mentioned as a lover again. Mr. Allen catching an interruption, replied,

"Sir, that Gentleman is a physician."

"A physician !" repeated his Lordship,
"Who required the aid of a physician ? all
this

this family appears in perfect health, and equally happy."

"Sir," replied Mr. Allen, "if you will give me leave to speak —."

"To be sure, Sir, I will," returned Lord Marr.—"Why have you thus kept me in a state of anxiety, when you know too well the impetuosity of my temper?"

Mr. Allen could not help smiling at the absence of his Lordship, who had not observed, that what he had chid Mr. Allen for not performing, the temper he condemned had now occasioned; but Mr. Allen, whose equanimity of mind or philosophy, never suffered him to be betrayed either by passion or prejudice, calmly replied:

"Doctor S——, Sir, has been in attendance on Miss Capel during a very dangerous illness."

"On Miss Capel!" exclaimed Lord Marr, "My dear friend, pardon my violence, you know I can never restrain my passion, when any thing relative to that young Lady is in question."

"I wonder, Sir," continued Mr. Allen, regardless of his extreme agitation, "that you do not recollect the name of Doctor S——!"

"It is not Doctor S——, who used to live in Ruffel-Street, and once attended me in a fever?" said Lord Marr.

"The same," returned Mr. Allen, "and has now been visiting Miss Capel."

"Then," continued his Lordship, "my presence might only be unseasonable; shall I return and postpone settling our family concerns till a more fit opportunity occurs?"

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"I should suppose," said the guardian, "Miss Capel, notwithstanding her weakness, would not wish to postpone settling the family concerns with *you*?"

"I am extremely sorry," said Lord Marr, "to hear she has been so ill. If my presence should recall to her mind any disagreeable remembrances relative to her father, I would forego every satisfaction her presence might give me, and for which I have hazarded my own health; then I suppose her indisposition prevented her being made acquainted with the last letter."

"It did," said the Rector, "as your first was the primary cause of her disease."

"My letter!" returned Lord Marr, hastily, "my letter! to occasion such perturbation of mind as to endanger her life!"

"Extreme anxiety for your personal safety," replied the Rector, "overcame her sen-

sibility, and she could not collect fortitude sufficient to repel the weakness of nature."

"Do you think, then, Mr. Allen, that when Miss Capel has recovered the agitation my unexpected presence has occasioned, that she will see me? As she was not acquainted with the letter which informed her of my being alive, she did not know but I might be dead. Ah! my dear friend, if I could entertain the flattering hopes you once inspired, and that Miss Capel's fears (setting aside all prejudices which occasional circumstances might have created) for my personal safety arose from tenderer motives, than ties of kindred."

"It was entirely contrary to my judgment that the letter was concealed from her," said the guardian.

"I say, my friend, could I be encouraged to hope two motives occasioned those sensations?" said his Lordship.

"I

"I know no reason you have to think otherwise," said Mr. Allen.

"Will you then tell me I may think so," returned Lord Marr.

"Miss Capel will be the properest person to answer that question, my Lord," replied the Rector.

"Dare I hope, Mr. Allen?"

"Your Lordship's sanguine temper only led you to despair," replied the guardian; "but I will see how Miss Capel does." He then opened the door, and Lord Marr saying, "You will let me know if my company will be acceptable?" he answered "Yes," when he went to the parlour, where he found Miss Capel much recovered, and Miss Mary asking for Lord Marr, by the name of Mr. Hamilton, she, with her sister Emily, went to the study to him, when, after mutual congratulations on both sides had passed, they conducted

ducted him into the parlour; but his Lordship, from the conversation with Mr. Allen, being led first to despair, and then to the most elevated hopes, could not check the transports which the latter inspired, that the moment he saw Miss Capel, as he had been accustomed to see her, all mildness, affability, and gentleness, he hastened towards her, and throwing himself at her feet, bowed his head on his hand, and remained silent.

Miss Capel, who had never been so addressed before, much less was it to be expected that the serene air of the cottage could inspire such warmth of passion, did not (for once in her life) know how to act with propriety; but Lord Marr, as the disease, so was he the antidote; his presence (after the first encounter) inspired her with fortitude. She arose with a graceful movement, when saying, "Mr. Hamilton, pray, Sir, rise, why this abject submission? Let the errors and indiscretion of a parent be buried in that oblivion which is due to the respect
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we should pay to their memory." Thus encouraged, Mr. Hamilton rising, pressed her hand with fervency to his lips, when she presented him to Doctor S—— as Lord Marr, and the good Doctor to him as the friend of her father and his own.

"Doctor S——, my Lord (said she) attended you, he tells me, in a very dangerous fever. He has now been assisting to the restoration of my health."

(Miss Capel did not know her guardian had been so treacherous as to tell the cause of her illness.)

"I am extremely sorry for the occasion, (returned his Lordship :) I well remember how much I owe to Doctor S——'s skill."

"I neither lament the occasion, or the cause, my Lord (returned Doctor S——) as it has restored the daughter of my friend

to my knowledge, and that I have again the pleasure of seeing your Lordship."

Miss Capel blushed at the insinuation on the emphasis laid on the word *cause*, and gave her guardian an expressive look, which her eyes always indicated whenever she suspected; but Mr. Allen, having wrapped himself up in his own philosophy, was insensible to the attack, while Lord Marr, happily understanding the reference, changed the subject, by observing, "Miss Capel (he was sure) would always acknowledge the acquisition, even if *painfully* obtained."

Lord Marr seating himself, the subject became general. He particularly addressed the twins, whom he called his wards and cousins, alluded to their danger, as well as fright in the storm, which had drove them into Lisbon, hoping they had met with no accident afterwards. In this conversation he was attacked with many lively remarks from Miss Mary. She accused him of a breach
of

of politeness in the abrupt manner in which he took his leave, tacitly acknowledging that they had acted otherwise, by hastily following him, and obtaining a last farewell. Lord Marr gave a sigh to a recollection so painful, though the author was not truly made acquainted with the cause, and Doctor S—— chid her for suffering her mind to recall unpleasant ideas, which he observed lessened the enjoyment of the present moment.

But Miss Emily said, "She did not think so; for it was by comparison that we valued, as we ought, every gratification of enjoyment."

"There, my ward (said the guardian, addressing Miss Capel) do you hear what a philosopher Miss Emily is grown? Would the confinement to Camfang and the cottage have taught it?"

"I subscribe, Sir (said she, smiling, and bowing to the Rector) to the doctrine, and
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am *now* very sensible of the power of that philosophy."

Mr. Allen, by a look shewed he understood the stress laid on the word *now*, and we may suppose, that the purity and circumspection of Miss Capel would not have led her to have acknowledged so much, had she been aware that Lord Marr was not insensible to the inference.

And Doctor S—— observed, "that we were all apt to compliment ourselves in being philosophers, when time had effaced impressions that were unpleasant; for instance (continued he) I have got the better, by the aid of philosophy, of the reproaches incurred by being an old bachelor, and, perhaps, had I married when young, my philosophy must have stood my friend, to support me against a peevish wife and untoward children. The Doctor, on this declaration, incurred the resentment of the twins (for which purpose he had so expressed himself) as they were
ready

ready to make him take to the garden for safety, had he not been protected by Mr. Langdale and Captain Allen, who both declared they had not philosophy enough to follow his example, and the Rector supported their argument in his marriage, as it was the only instance to be adduced (he said) where his philosophy required no stimulative."

Mrs. Allen gave him a bow of complacency for the compliment, and added, "that she could not at present subscribe to such congenial sentiments; but if her Edward was now of the party, she should have as great a share of philosophy as those who had no occasion to exert any."

This apropos remark of Mrs. Allen made them all laugh, for philosophy, or resignation, in this present company, were exploded. Solicisms, content and happiness seemed to have regained their empire at the cottage; but, alas! society had intruded, solitude was fled, the rural walks become festive, and while

while the parlour exhibited that hilarity, ever attendant on virtue and innocence, the kitchen was in a state of innovation truly hostile; there the solitary fire-side in winter, or the more cheerful dawn of summer in the spring, had made one a resource against the inclemencies of a frigid season, and the other emancipating us from it; while old Giles Hopkins, with Augustin, Hannah the cook, and Sarah the house-maid, with Rover the dog, constituted that household; and late, where the parlour only beheld Miss Capel, with Mr. and Mrs. Allen, as substitutes for those dear and missing friends, was now crowded with four servants of Lord Marr's, and two of Mr. Langdale's; the court-yard too, which had adopted that name, more from *custom* than *use*, had reversed the mode, and was now more useful than customary; the barn, which housed the poultry, was converted into a coach-house, and contained Lord Marr's chariot and Mr. Langdale's phaeton; the stable, in which the grey horse used to repose,

and

and occasionally the cow and pigs, was not sufficient to accommodate the stud; inroads were made in the barn, a temporary rack and manger were substituted as a convenience, and the strewn straw spoke emphatically against the—O solitude.

C H A P. LIV.

LORD Marr was forced to be accommodated with a residence in the cottage, and the room which Miss Capel called her room, and was so denominated by Madame La Fey and the servants in the life-time of Mr. Capel, was assigned now as the apartment of Lord Marr; happy transition, had he been sensible of his destination; and when Mr. Langdale left the cottage for Norway, and the Rector, with his wife and son, for the Parsonage, Lord Marr, after wishing his relations the blessings of undisturbed repose,

pose, sought refuge, not from, but in reflection, within this sanctioned retreat.

The next morning he obtained a private hour with Mr. Langdale and Charles Allen, when he made them acquainted with the situation of his father's affairs, by which it appeared, that the property accruing to them in right of Lady Emily and Mary was not much reduced, and on an average there would be upwards of sixty thousand pounds each, a sum, though large in estimation, received little value with either of them. Mr. Langdale had a large property, and Charles Allen saw no pleasure or satisfaction beyond his Emily, the cottage, and the Parsonage; happy in the affluence they could bestow, if (for we must add that important monosyllable *if*) he did not figure to himself a secret and a laudable pride, in a wish to restore her to the illustrious honours she was born to inherit.

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The following day, encouraged by the intervening conversation which had passed between his Lordship and Mr. Allen, he embraced an opportunity which offered, of renewing the same in the person of Lord Marr, which his sanguinary temper had led him to suppose was rejected in Mr. Hamilton. He was encouraged too by the removal of several obstacles, the objects of her solicitude were found, Miss Capel had pardoned the transgression of his father; in himself he had not forfeited his honour or his word, for his heart had ever been truly devoted to her alone. She was convinced of the duplicity of Sir James Collone, and though *he* did not think so, yet Miss Capel in her mind truly pitied, as well as pardoned, the daughter, in her partiality to a man, whom she herself thought unequalled.

To a temper so sanguine, these favourable presages gave hopes of success, and Lord Marr unhesitatingly again told Miss Capel a truth she did not wish to doubt, that his
heart

heart was solely hers, and his happiness at her disposal. The first she took a pride in possessing, and the other the benevolence of her heart would not let her infringe, and when he said Mr. Allen had always been his friend, the impulse could not be resisted, and she answered, "Yes, Sir, more than you are aware of."

"How! (replied Lord Marr) has he pleaded for me in my absence? then he has been a friend indeed. Let me hope Miss Capel did not let him sue in vain." His Lordship on this insinuation recapitulated the event which had brought them together, after a separation of such length of time, during which the two contending, as uniting parties, (their fathers) had buried all animosities with themselves in the bosom of mortality.

"Let me hope (continued his Lordship) that Miss Capel will give her suffrages in the wish that we may never be separated again."

"I sincerely hope, my Lord, that we shall ever be the best of friends," she hesitatingly replied.

"Friends (returned his Lordship) we must ever be. Let Miss Capel indulge my wish, that a closer tie than consanguinity will make that friendship indissoluble; for by this hand I swear (and he pressed her hand to his lips) my future happiness, ultimately and finally, depends on your favour."

The vehemence of his words terrified her, and a tear starting in her eyes, she raised them to him, saying, "Had my father lived to see this day, my Lord!"

"He would have sanctioned it (returned he, hastily, with his benediction.) Let the auspices of his daughter perform the rite as his representative; say you will bless me with this gift, and every other blessing must attend the solemnization."

Miss

Miss Capel neither withdrew her hand, or made a reply, and silence being generally construed as assent, his Lordship readily gave into the opinion, when he arose, and bowing on the precious relic, said, "He would not increase her present agitation by his presence, more than saying, his praises could never equal either his wishes or his gratitude," and then retired; when Miss Capel flew to her own apartment, and falling on her knees, she called on the spirit of that parent for a blessing on her conduct, which she neither knew she had directly assented to, or rejected.

His violence of temper, however, in this one instance, led him to define on the favourable side, and when dinner was announced, all appeared with faces of real satisfaction, except Miss Capel, on whose features Lord Marr's penetration saw abundant tears had traced. Doctor S——, who generally came to the cottage every day to dinner from Brittleworth, remarked on her absence

of thought, and told her she ought not to suffer one to stray from the present company. A blush of consent convinced him and her guardian they did not wander, and after the servants were withdrawn, Miss Mary took from her pocket a sealed parcel, and observing how inattentive they had been to the Marchioness Silona's information, said, "that was the packet she had secreted in their baggage from Spain." Mr. Allen supposed it could contain nothing new; but Miss Mary breaking the seal, after opening the cover, exclaimed, "Why, here is nothing but a news-paper!"

"A news-paper of that date (said Doctor S——) may perhaps contain the best intelligence," on which it was handed to him, when, putting on his spectacles, he read the paragraph, which was penned early on the first initiating the twins into the imaginary world, and the Marchioness had on the margin wrote herself, "Lady Gertrude, Lady Emily, and Lady Mary Dacre, the nominal

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Miss Capels, are co-heiresses of Lord Marr, in the person of their late father Mr. Capel."

When Miss Emily heard the account, she addressed her sister Mary, "Do not you recollect the words, Mary? I read that paragraph to Madame La Fey, in the life-time of my father. Her exclamations were, — "*Mon Dieu! Mon Dieu!*" and on our expressing surprise at her vehemence, she said, "It proceeded from her horrors at the wickedness of mankind."

"For myself (said Doctor S——) I can well recollect the paragraph, as well as the occasion of it, and though Lord Marr was not present to enjoy the exultations of his friends, they felt a peculiar satisfaction in observing the general joy which infused itself into all ranks of people upon the avowal of his integrity, and I don't know but I might be tempted to return to a scene I have so long quitted, when certain events take place,

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purposely

purposely to introduce my fair incognitas to their friends."

Mr. Langdale and Charles acknowledged the obligation, as well as their wish, he would fulfil it, and Lord Marr was almost on the point of expressing his request in keeping his word, had he not been restrained from delicacy to Miss Capel, who already, by her confusion, told, she readily understood that the Doctor included her in the number.

Several days had passed, in which the happiness of the party seemed not to admit of addition; if Doctor S—— chanced to absent himself, there was an allay, and the ward of Mr. Allen began visibly to shew in her countenance that she partook of the present serenity; her bloom, her vivacity, the liveliness of her natural temper, resumed their station, so much so, that her sisters, who had never yet seen her unrestrained, remarked it with extreme satisfaction, as in the lifetime of her father respect then caused a check;

check; for though he would be cheerful with his children, yet it was that compulsive gaiety which acted as a duty, and not as a natural ebullition, and as she grew old enough to be sensible of his mirth sufficiently to enjoy it, there appeared then to her that forbearance, which gave a repulse to her cordially uniting in it; but now all restraint was unnecessary, and as Lord Marr and Miss Cappel had frequently been seen walking together in the private walks, and was once observed sitting on the identical bench near the margin of the river, where she was wont to watch the "gliding wave," the family caught the intimation; therefore when Miss Emily and Captain Allen, or Mr. Langdale and Miss Mary, were mentioned in the parlour (though their destination were more expressive in the vicinity) Lord Marr and Lady Gertrude Dacre were comparatively too united.

C H A P. LV.

NEAR a fortnight had passed, when Mr. Langdale had again recourse to his friend the Rector, and as he said, now no obstacle could be presented, he must wish to express his impatience, nor longer brook a delay, as he wanted much to return to his seat, as well as it became necessary for him, as a representative, to make his appearance in his proper place amidst the senators, neither of which he could effect without Miss Mary Capel accompanying him. Charles Allen was equally importunate, which obliged the Rector to promise his influence in representing

senting the propriety, when they introduced the subject, which was to be the following day after dinner, in the presence of Lord Marr and Doctor S——, as they had obtained the acquiescence of the Ladies to the proposal. Accordingly, at the appointed important moment, when Mr. Langdale was to open the embassy, and had just begun to descant on the value of time, and how rapidly it passed; observing too, that he had been above four months an intimate in the family, and that patience, till now, he did not think had been a virtue he possessed; on which Doctor S—— had shrewdly observed, he could not have discovered the acquisition more opportunely than on the eve of marriage, and Lady Mary had retorted on the Doctor, that it was well he had not been put to the proof, as his patience, she feared, would have failed in the trial.

When their ears were assailed with a voice not quite so harmonious, or yet known, or

at least recollected, while a switch giving a loud ring on the pales, the voice vociferated, "Halloo! what cheer on board, meffmates?"

Mrs. Allen darting towards the door, she met her son Edward in the passage, who, on exclaiming, "What, my son Ned!" he replied, "My mother! hearty and handsome still, by Jove."

This conversation drew the Rector hastily out, when embracing his son with affectionate joy, he introduced the Gentleman into the parlour, first to Lady Gertrude and her sisters, and then to Lord Marr and Mr. Langdale, while his brother became instantly known to him, as they were to each other, after a separation of five years, from the time they left England.

As they had neither of them been at the Parsonage since their infancy before, the small traces which had remained on Edward's mind, respecting the society there, could no
ways

ways have adapted his opinion to the present company, and as he was a true sailor, he (tho' he could be, when occasion required it, a perfect Gentleman) found himself rather embarrassed on the introduction, which to relieve, his father began to inquire how he accomplished his intention of finding them and the cottage?

When he gave information of his having travelled from Portsmouth in a post-chaise, by stages, to Brittleworth, from whence he directed them to the Parsonage; but they seemed (he added) not to want a pilot, as they knew the latitude well: Being inclined, however, when I came to the Parsonage, (continued the sailor) to surprise you, I discharged the wherry, and steered on a clear coast to the hatchway, and inquiring for you and my mother, was told you were dining at the cottage. Unacquainted with an epithet so familiar to them, I asked where the cottage was? when the boy pointing submissively, said, "Up the lane, Sir!" However, as I

was unacquainted with the soundings, and having no compass neither to steer by, I took him in my weather-gage, till we came in sight of the Beacon, bearing due East by South, where I made him return to his anchorage again. The truth was, that Edward Allen had not mentioned to the servant who he was, therefore the boy naturally concluded he was an acquaintance of Lord Marr's, or Mr. Langdale's, as well that, in consequence of such knowledge, it was not possible for him to be unacquainted with the cottage, which, in his observation, had undergone such numerous changes from a silence so obscure, as not to excite curiosity even in the whistling plow-boy, who occasionally passed the wicket, was now the seat of festivity and happiness, while the distant cottage children came daily for the offal of that table, which was unknown heretofore to have been able to spare the crumbs which fell from it.

The addition of Edward Allen gave a sensible pleasure to all. Mrs. Allen had yielded

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her heart to every maternal effusion of thankfulness and joy; nor did she so far divest herself of self-satisfaction, as to reflect that the acquisition might be local, for the first moment which offered favourable to her wishes, when Miss Capel took a private opportunity to congratulate her on his safe arrival, she could not so fully express her affection, or her gratitude, than by emphatically saying, "Now, Miss Capel, I hope you will believe what Mr. Allen always said, 'that every thing was for the best.'"

Whatever the young Lady thought, she made no answer to the observation, though from her natural philanthropy, and other concurring circumstances, that now presented themselves, if she had expressed her acquiescence in the adage, it would have been but a just compliment due to the philosophy, as well as to the penetration of her guardian, and the Rector of *Camfang*; yet it is visible that, however Miss Capel might have subscribed to the doctrine, a sigh, as well as a sensation

sensation of recollection, would always tell her she was the daughter of the Earl of Marr, which in the review of her present pleasing prospects, recalling her father to her remembrance, make her emphatically say privately to herself, "Had he been living to see this day, I then could, with the sincerity of a true convert, have joined Mrs. Allen's sentiment, and truly said, every event was for the best."

Though the arrival of Edward Allen (for we can give him no other appellation, as he continued to serve his country in the honourable station of a first lieutenant on board a seventy-four gun ship, and therefore had no distinction of pre-eminence) was rather mal apropos, as it prevented the prosecution of a very elegant piece of oratory, from the lips of Mr. Langdale, whether *for or against* the virtue of patience is immaterial, and intended to be seconded by Charles Allen; the Rector too was to have supported the argument, all which his sudden appearance

appearance protracted, no longer, however, than till the following morning, when Lord Marr going early into the wood, as he was walking towards the rural alcove, on seeing Mr. Langdale, and expressing his surprise, that in an hour, when few were stirring at the cottage, he should have travelled six miles for an early breakfast, was answered, "that a lover seldom found rest in bed, while the mind continued harrassed by the fluctuation of expectation and disappointment," and then added, "that from the observation he had made, he was led to believe, that a congratulation on his Lordship's success in Miss Capel's favour, would not be premature."

Lord Marr thanked him, and telling Mr. Langdale, at the same time, "that his happiness, though Miss Capel had condescended to favour him with her smiles, had placed the completion of them to a very distant period, as he feared she would not admit the mentioning marriage till the twelve months mourning

mourning for her father were expired, a penance I must submit to, and who would not, when the acquisition will be such permanent felicity?" said his Lordship.

Mr. Langdale, however, differed in opinion, and justly observed, "that the sooner the happiness was attained, the longer would the possession be," and then mentioned his impatience for a conclusion, and his other reasons, as well as those prior ones of love and rapture, as necessary inducements to the completion of what was ultimately to fix the standard of his future good. Lord Marr observed, he had a stronger motive to urge against his farther forbearance, as he had been an inmate in the family, as well as an accepted lover to Lady Mary some months, though the plea held good for them all to make the same exception, "the respect to the memory of their father," and possibly might; but the lover, informing Lord Marr, that he had Mary's, as Captain Allen had Emily's consent, to urge their sister's approbation to fix an

an early day for their nuptials. His Lordship said, "that was an authority even Lady Gertrude *ought* not to dispute, and she never did any thing she ought not to do."

"Then I think (returned Mr. Langdale) your Lordship might plead that as a proscriptio*n* in your case; for I can see no reason for Lady Gertrude, and I think Lady Gertrude *ought* not to protract your Lordship's happiness."

"Three months! (exclaimed Mr. Langdale;)—Why, to wait three months longer before I could call my Mary mine, would be a state little preferable to insanity!"

During this conversation, as the Gentleman had continued walking, they insensibly took the path towards the Parsonage, and was met by the Rector, who having, as well as by his actions, seen Mr. Langdale was very earnest in his subject, after the salutations of the morning, required the cause of his vehemence,

hemence, when one Gentleman expressed his hopes with equal warmth, as the other did his fears of a speedy, as a tardy consummation of their wishes, Mr. Allen made a strong objection to the rule laid down by his ward, which, he said, "if Lord Matr had not influence sufficient to make her relinquish, he should exert his authority as a guardian; for I am sure (said the Rector) when that period arrives, the event will return on her mind so recent, as to cloud the auspices of Hymen with a fluctuation of incidents *he* has no right to be made acquainted with."

On this Mr. Allen was prevailed on by both the Gentlemen to use his interest with his ward to curtail the time, as Mr. Langdale said "he had the consent of Lady Mary to adopt any day after a fortnight was elapsed, in which injunction Lady Emily had joined in favour of his son, and after such an indulgence it would ill become him as a lover to let an hour pass, that could protract his most sanguine wishes."

"True,

" True, returned the Rector, and looking significantly at Lord Marr, having a Mrs. Allen to shield me, I shall not incur the resentment of a jealous lover, as Doctor S—— had nearly done, should I on this occasion be fond in a private *tête-à-tête* with Miss Capel."

His Lordship blushed at the retrospect, and, smiling, replied, " that he hoped his friendship (which he had on so many occasions experienced) would conceal this impulse from the knowledge of Doctor S——, however he could, in his own bosom, justify the suspicion ; for you know, Mr. Allen, I can combat every evil, from which that Lady is exempted."

" The injunction is too late (said the Rector) for I have already told the Doctor, who, old as he is, enjoyed, in ideas, your temporary sufferings."

The

The commission however, which was given to the Rector, Lord Marr himself counteracted, for being alone with Miss Capel, the subject naturally occurred to his mind, and having, with a short preface, mentioned what Mr. Langdale had told him, "that Lady Emily and Mary had given their consent to a speedy completion of their marriages." Her surprise at first was only expressed by confusion, blushes, and trepidation. At last she said, "Then my sisters have, I find, transferred their confidence from me; but why should I lament, or expect otherwise; Mr. Langdale and Captain Allen have certainly a prior right to direct all their actions, yet I did wish —," and then she stopped.

"What were Miss Capel's wishes (said Lord Marr) let me anticipate them; at the same time that I flatter myself I am included, did Miss Capel wish that the day, which was to sanction my happiness, should give stability to the lovers of her sisters. If the wish was so benevolent, let it still act with its wonted benignity;

benignity; nor from a too refined delicate sensibility, place at a distance the happiness of that man, whose future life will be devoted to make her perfectly so. Lady Gertrude Dacre must forget the cause, as the name of Capel, and remember what she owes to herself as the daughter of the late Lord Marr, my uncle, and to the memory of her father in the same person."

"O, my Lord! (replied Miss Capel) how have you revived in my mind cruel recollections, that father so *benetvolent*, so *kind*, so *indulgent*; what do I not owe to him and his memory? Every thing; and shall respect alone be dispensed with? How much has he endured for the sake of me and my sisters? How much have we profited by his admonitions and instructions, and the same moment which gave you, my Lord, to us as his heir, told us how he had been vilified, persecuted, and traduced?"

"Yes,

“ Yes (returned his Lordship, interrupting her) and that same moment told, that the imputations had been reversed, his fame restored, and, could his residence or himself been found; his fortune would have been again graced with his munificence, and not appropriated to — — ; but I must forbear; duty compels me to draw a veil over the succeeding scenes. I must wish to forget what Miss Capel is studious to remember, for the incidents are so connected, that she can never dwell on the virtues and accusations of her father; but the duplicity and degradations of her uncle, in my father, must be blended with them at the time.”

“ No, my Lord (she replied) I will forget the one, though I never can the other; the failings of the father shall be lost in the merits of the son.”

Lord Marr kissed her hand. “ What can repay such charity? (said his Lordship) yet have Lady Emily and Mary more, for they
pity

pity the anxiety and impatience of Mr. Langdale and Captain Allen. Let me entreat Lady Gertrude to be more lenient."

"No more, my Lord (said she) at present; we have unfortunately ~~tell~~ ^{fallen} on a subject which has revived all my sorrows: I will myself talk to my sisters."

As they had not come quite to the decided question, Lord Marr was satisfied with her determination of entering on the subject with her sisters, being certain, as Mr. Langdale and Charles had obtained the grant, they would never relinquish it; he therefore arose from his seat, and bowing, left Miss Capel, saying, he would go and seek those Gentlemen; when she hastily left the parlour, and went to her father's study, intending there to first give indulgence to, and then to compose her present agitation, which the conversation with Lord Marr had thrown her into.

Miss

Miss Capel opening the door, immediately shut it again; but was surprised when she saw that she had enclosed her guardian with her, who was busy in searching for a book which he knew was there; but seeing her in extreme emotion, while the tears, which the past review of recent events had caused to flow, still continued to trace her cheeks, he shut the bookcase, and taking her hand with much tenderness, said, "My dear Miss Capel, what new cause of complaint? Why this agitation, and those tears? I thought the presence of Lord Marr had fully done away all regret."

"Perhaps, Sir, he is the cause, not eventually a cause of regret to Miss Capel, I am sure," returned the guardian.

"My sisters (he tells me) have been precipitately acquiescent to the wishes of Mr. Langdale and your son in a speedy marriage. Had they consulted me, I think I could have convinced

convinced them of the impropriety till after May; but I suppose it is now too late."

"To be sure it is (said the Rector.) Why, Sir, do you acquiesce in the determination? I thought to have had you for my advocate,"

"I am retained by all the parties," returned the guardian.

"And do you not see an impropriety, Mr. Allen? I have often told you how amiable my father was. Does not respect to his memory exact from us the mourning of a year?"

"I think you cannot pay a greater respect to his remembrance, than taking an early opportunity to secure his honour in alliances, so respectable for your future safety; indeed, my son is one of them."

“ And that he is one, Mr. Allen is my greatest security for the future happiness, as well as fame, of Emily.”

“ Fortune (returned the Rector) can never be a substitute for virtue, though virtue is a good substitute for fortune. Charles is amiable.”

“ Yes (said Miss Capel, and her discomposure began to relax, for her guardian's conversation had always power to sooth her inquietudes) there was a time when I thought, and I believe you thought so too, Sir, we could have dispensed with Mr. Langdale's fortune in the exchange : However, that is done away, we were mistaken.”

“ I had only my doubts (said the Rector) and I never suffered them to intrude as a certainty ; the impetuosity of youth in sanguinary impulses will sometimes lead to error, while the mind continues firm in rectitude ; if his juvenile volubility caused us to receive
false

false impressions, his assiduity of conduct afterwards, when he rescued Miss Mary from evils, perhaps, irretrievable, will shew that he inclined to the first principle. Lord Marr always speaks of Mr. Langdale to me, as one of his first friends, and you will allow *that* as a recommendation."

"Mr. Allen (Miss Capel replied, hastily) I myself think highly of Mr. Langdale; they were only circumstances that occurred. Lord Marr has sensibility, he has discernment, and I see his partiality to Mr. Langdale, as well as to your son. I have been led, perhaps, to try to recriminate from the distress the declaration of my sisters has thrown me into. Now tell me sincerely, Mr. Allen, for you know I abide by your judgment always." —

"Not always," said the guardian.

"When I do not, I am sure that I act wrong," returned the ward.

" I do not think so (said the Rector;) your judgment, I am often convinced, is better than mine."

" Then do you think they will consent to marry before May ?"

" They talk of a fortnight," continued the Rector.

" A fortnight ! (exclaimed Miss Capel) Then I see you are trifling with me, Mr. Allen: Emily and Mary Capel would not have kept me ignorant of so important and so speedy a conclusion."

" I never trifled with Miss Capel's feelings in my life (returned the Rector :) It was only settled two days ago. The intrusion of Edward prevented your knowing it before. You will pardon an error in him, not preconcerted."

" But,

"But, Mr. Allen, you do not think they will be married in a fortnight?"

"I see nothing to prevent it (said the Rector.) You say, my dear ward, that you abide by my judgment; if you do not, you act wrong: Why then not consent to an early marriage. A mutual attachment between you and Lord Marr has subsisted, to my knowledge, from the moment you first met on board the *Ilsparanza*, and a separation, I am certain, would be equally distressing to both. Your sisters have honoured me with the assurance, that I shall unite the one to Mr. Langdale, and the other to my son; and I think my ward will not refuse me that favour. Doctor S—— has engaged to give them away, to be a temporary father."

After a pause, Miss Capel repeated, "*a temporary father!*" when, clasping her hands, "If my *real* parent could look down, and sanction by his nod, my present conduct,"

I 3 when,

when, turning to the Rector, "I never was in a church but once in England, and you, Sir, know the fatal cause which led me there; can I then, the second time, traverse over these sacred manes to the marriage altar?"

"If that is the only impediment (returned the Rector) it is easily remedied. You may have a special licence, or go to London."

"No," Miss Capel returned. "Marriage (she said) she held a sacred ceremony, and should be performed in a sacred place; and as to going to London, I am sure, Sir, you know I should not adopt that, among strangers, to be introduced as the daughter of my father."

"Well then (said the guardian) there is no alternative: Doctor S—— must give you to Lord Marr. I shall sanctify the gift, and his Lordship will introduce you into the gay world as Countess of Marr. As to those delicate

delicate sentiments you have invoked your father to ratify, by his consent, your conduct, where can you so properly enforce the wish, as letting his remains witness the marriage rites."

"But do you not think I can prevail on my sisters to protract it beyond a fortnight?"

"I do not know how far your influence extends with your sisters (returned the Rector;) but I fear you will have none over the lovers in this instance."

"I think it unkind they did not consult me first," said Miss Capel.

"You must recollect (replied he) that you only hold the second place in their confidence now; it would be an ill compliment to Mr. Langdale and my son if you preceded *them*."

"True," she returned; when adding, "I do not know how to act."

"There is but one way," said the Rector.

* And how is that?"

"By consenting to what they have adopted." Mr. Langdale and Charles both think they have already sacrificed much to the critical situation of Lord Marr, and to your sensibility, in waiting thus long." —

"Good morning to you, Sir," she replied, dropping the Rector a cheerful courtesy, with a forced smile: "I will see my sisters;" when he moved his hat, and returning the salutation to her, she left him, and he pursued his search after the missing book, no longer solicitous about her present emotions or anxiety, for though she acknowledged her lover was the occasion, yet his influence in her heart was such, and the Rector read the female mind so truly, he was sure what he had

had decided to be right, she would on his account adopt, even if her heart inclined her to think it wrong; but the Rector did not see an impropriety in the marriages taking place earlier than May. He was of Mr. Langdale's opinion, the sooner the happiness commenced, the longer would the possession be; and from books he was well versed in the theoretical doctrine, that all sublunary joys are fleeting and unstable, the compulsory seclusion at the Parsonage of *Camsang* having excluded him from a large portion in the practical knowledge."

C H A P. LVI.

MISS Capel found her sisters together, and what was rare she found them alone. Her heart was too much interested in the subject, and ceremony with them being unnecessary, she directly told her motive for breaking in on their privacy, chiding them at the same time for not making her a confidant of their intention. To the last allegation they made the apology already given, the unexpected presence of Edward Allen; but when she, with a flood of tears, mentioned the respect and duty they owed to the
memory

memory of their deceased father, Madame La Fey's false impression was so totally eradicated, that they yielded to her opinion, and only lamented the hasty consent they had given to the importunities of their lovers, promising her to exert all their influence over Mr. Langdale and Charles Allen to protract the performance of the ceremony till such time as their sister should think it proper. Miss Capel, in this confidence, unfolded the secret nearest her heart, in telling them her wish, that they might all be united on the same day by Mr. Allen, and as it was become necessary, for the honour of their father's memory, they should be known and acknowledged as his children and heirs, they could have no introduction so secure, as the protection of husbands in the persons of Lord Marr, Mr. Langdale, and Captain Allen.

The last position was so just (and not interfering with, but rather enforcing their primary promise) they acquiesced fully to its

truth : Miss Capel therefore left her sisters satisfied, in her own mind, of their success, and that she had succeeded in what she thought right, though she looked on the argument of her guardian as forcible, and she was determined (however painful her sensations might be) that the remains of her father should hallow the nuptial benediction from the lips of Mr. Allen.

During the conversation, first with the Rector, and afterwards held with the sisters on the same subject by Miss Capel, Lord Marr had been successful in his search after Mr. Langdale and Charles, whom he found fishing by the river-side, when having congratulated them mutually on their early happiness, expressed his regret at the apparent determination of Miss Capel, to defer his till after May, and her intention to prevail on her sisters to do the same.

This declaration roused the passions of the Gentlemen, that they both unanimously swore,
yes,

yes, they swore a solemn oath (but none was present to hear it except Lord Marr) that no *power*, or *influence* on earth, should prevail on either of them to stay till that time, now they had brought the Ladies to assent to an earlier day. Thus these cross purposes, from Miss Capel had certified to herself a security in her own adoption, were rendered abortive, for Miss Emily and Mary no sooner made the lovers acquainted with the sister's request and their own, then they both reciprocally (though not present together) alledged the *oath* as a binding act, from which they could not recede.

Miss Capel, when made acquainted with an event, from which she too thought there was no appeal, sought the mollifying advice of her guardian, and in the earnestness of her mind, for him to find a resource; the moment she found him alone, said, "Sir, do you know that Mr. Langdale and your son have both sworn not to stay till after May for my sisters, although

although they have consented to my request.

“ Well then (returned the guardian) it must be before May.”

“ But cannot you, Sir, find some subterfuge for their rashness ?”

“ Miss Capel would not have me qualify an oath (said the Rector, smiling) though a lover’s.”

“ I think, Sir, you can find some means to bring them to coincide with the wishes of my sisters.”

“ Why, I think I can,” said the Rector, pausing.

“ Then pray, Sir, do (replied she :) I will acquiesce in any expedient.”

“ If

“ If so (returned the guardian) we will liquidate the dispute ; it shall be halved, the three months shall be six weeks, Miss Capel, and I am sure, as they are *bound* not to go beyond May, it will be but a small retribution to give a month to Lord Marr.”

Miss Capel turned hastily, and was going to leave the room, when Mr. Allen seizing her arm, “ I hope (he continued) my ward is not displeased at my sincerity. Miss Capel accused me of trifling with her sensibility : I now speak the sentiments of my mind, and a little reflection will make her think me in the right.” He then looked in her face for a reply ; but observing an emotion, which her eyes told she could not restrain, he only kissed her hand, when she hurried to her own apartment, and was informed by the maid, that her sisters were in the alcove, playing on the lute to Mr. Langdale and Captain Allen. This intelligence led her to conclude, that all she had gained by argument and representation,

sentation, would be counteracted by affection and love, and while she reasoned by herself against the avowed sentiments of those Gentlemen and her guardian, there was one more, to whom she began to think some little concessions on her part were due. Lord Marr had paid her the tribute of his first love, from which he had never receded. It was true, her heart would acknowledge a reciprocity of affection, though by a masked conduct, she had led him to think otherwise. In fact, when a mind, like Miss Capel's, began to investigate her own conduct, the arguments she would be led to use, were sure to lessen the force of the foundation of it.

Tho' her sisters she reflected could not do otherwise than accept the composition, they would then leave her, and follow the fortunes of those it was their duty to attend. Nor did she yet know that the Gentlemen would accept the terms, Mr. Allen had proposed, it was true, as he said, Lord Marr was entitled to

to the compliment of her acquiescence, nor did she wish to be charged with *caprice*.

In these cogitations Miss Capel did not bring any argument in favour of her own cause, though the primary one still existed, and when Lady Emily and Mary told the result of their conference with the Gentlemen, and that Mr. Allen had brought them to consent to protracting of their marriage till the expiration of the six weeks; they thought it an expedient so salutary, that they forgot the original compact of three months, and looked to a certainty of her entirely assenting to the proposal, that those Gentlemen might not be guilty of *perjury*.

The next meeting therefore Miss Capel had with Lord Marr, he pleaded the cause of those two Gentlemen (in which his own was included) so effectually, that he gained a promise from her, that she would give the subject due consideration, a concession which, in the opinion of all, amounted almost to a concurrence,

currence, and Lord Marr was congratulated on his approaching nuptials at that period as a certainty, and, indeed, Miss Capel finding it impossible to refuse, gave his Lordship a graceful assent, who received the promise, as an assurance, he said, of everlasting felicity, on the following evening.

C H A P. LVII.

IN the course of the week the day of celebration was fixed, and as no preparations were necessary at Camfang, to provide jewels or costly habiliments, to receive or pay the bridal visits, the intermediate time was employed in the innocent, as well as rational, entertainments of *music, fishing, riding*, and conversation with Doctor S——, who being now freed from restraint, often in the company would express his vanity, and declare that he never received a gratification equal to having been the cause of exciting jealousy in the breast of such a man as Lord Marr.

Edward

Edward Allen's company was too a very desirable acquisition, his openness of temper, with a natural fund of humour, together with his sea phrases, and his observations during a residence of four years in the West-Indies, was a source of entertainment. He had too a genius for drawing, and had taken a very accurate view of the Cottage from the lane, as well as another of the Parsonage and the church of *Camsang*, on the brow of the hill, both so well delineated in Indian ink, that Lord Marr begged them of him, saying he would have them handsomely framed and glazed, as an ornament to his library. Mr. Langdale solicited him to take the trouble of a second transcript, and his brother Charles claimed a third for the same purpose, though Mr. Langdale said the Parsonage would only tell what it had been, as he intended to rebuild the house, and increase the value of the living, in gratitude for the foundation it had, and was to insure to him of his succeeding happiness. Lord Marr begged Mr. Langdale would allow him to add the small stipend

stipend of a hundred a year towards the endowment; when Mr. Allen observed, he had no right to prevent any addition his patron or Lord Marr should propose to do for the benefit of the succeeding incumbent. The house to be sure, he said, was rather in a state of decay, but a large increase of the benefice he was averse to, as he thought a hundred and twenty pounds a year was quite sufficient for all the luxuries necessary to support the Rector of Camfang, and if it was increased to more, it might be a temptation to the possessor to seek in society for those satisfactions he could not find there; it was therefore agreed that a new house should be erected as near the old site as would allow for the Rector to include his favourite garden, and a field of three acres was added to the glebe, together with the increase of the living, to the sum proposed by the incumbent, our good Rector Mr. Allen.

Lord Marr then expressed a wish to ornament the cottage, to have fishes in exchange

change for the small paned casements, and the ivy, which run and entirely covered the front of the house, so much during the season, when it was in its most luxuriant foliage, as to half exclude the light of the windows, rooted totally away.

To these requests Miss Capel put a positive negative, and begged his Lordship to lay aside every thought respecting that house. She said it was her father's, and therefore most valuable to her. He chose to live in it in that rustic state, as such she would have it remain, and as it was probable Capt. Allen and her sister would have many inducements to visit the Parsonage, his Lordship, she was sure, would accompany her to the place, which had fostered her infancy, and given security to an injured parent. Lord Marr bowed assent, while the next day, and the succeeding ones, the Rector was found with his pole and rod, taking measure of the ground, traversing the hill behind the Parsonage, pacing the circle of the glebe, that

that at the end of a fortnight the plan and dimensions of the house, with the extent of the ground, were so accurately settled in his imagination, as to require only the bricklayers and carpenters to begin their work, which, he said, they should do as soon as he had found those he could confide in for the undertaking, while he appointed Edward his surveyor, or, in his own language, to overhaul the log-book.

C H A P. LVIII.

AT length the sun hailed the morn of April, in all the beauty of a smiling spring; the brides, dressed in white, were each led by the hand to the church of Camfang, when Mr. Allen, the Rector, tied the three-fold knots of love, alliance, and friendship, Doctor S—— performing the office of father to all. On their return to the cottage an elegant entertainment was provided, unembellished by the formalities of etiquette or magnificence. There were no bells at Camfang, for one served equally the purpose of calling the inhabitants to their prayers, or
to

to consign them to their graves, while the refuse of the table gave a gleam of joy to the children of the poor, who lived in the vicinity of this seclusion.

Thus were united the daughters of the Earl of Marr, fostered, bred, nurtured in, and married from a cottage. Miss Capel, as she trod over the remains of her father, in her way to the altar, gave a temporary relief to her feelings, which only the presence of Lord Marr could have enabled her to support, and when, for the first time, they signed the name of Dacre (and to Lady Emily and Mary the last) in the register at the altar, (for there was no vestry-room) Miss Capel gave a look to the grave of him who gave her birth, as an approbatory hope of his affiance to the mutual contract.

After continuing at the cottage a week, enjoying all the luxury of innocence and privacy, the Countess of Marr gave up the charms of retirement to the solicitations of

him whom it was now her duty to obey, and they, together with Mr. Langdale, and Lady Mary Langdale, Captain Allen, with Lady Emily Allen, left the cottage in charge of Mrs. Allen and her son, and their guardian, where they were to reside during the rebuilding of the Parsonage, with a promise that they were all to revisit it every year, in the sporting season, when Mr. Langdale came to Norway, Lord Marr being himself a sportsman; they tried to prevail on Edward Allen to accompany them to the gay world, but, besides his being a stranger, and newly arrived, his mother said, she could not part from them *all* at one time; and he pleaded, as an excuse, that his presence was necessary, to see that the *back-stays* of his father's new cabin were made *taught*.

Lord Marr had given orders for his own coach and six to meet them within ten miles of London, as had Mr. Langdale, one not being sufficient to accommodate them all, and as the Ladies had requested a private introduction,

tion, they did not arrive till near ten o'clock at night, when on their alighting from the carriage, and the hall being illuminated with various lamps for their reception, it being the same house in which the late Lord Marr resided, Lady Gertrude (or indeed the Countess) could not help, when she entered, exclaiming, "Now, my Lord, I am convinced *Camfang* was not the place of my nativity. That monstrous figure over the dial recurs to my remembrance, and I could never have seen it before, except *here*. My memory furnishes me with a returning terror I felt in my infancy on sight of his uplifted arm."

His Lordship then conducted them to the dining parlour, where a cold collation was served up, and the following day he introduced to the knowledge of his Lady and her sisters, the only relation he had in the person of his aunt, his late mother's sister, who had made him acquainted with the conduct of his father, and was therefore ulti-

mately the cause of their being restored to the world.

This Lady had been an intimate friend of their mother's, and the late Earl their father, and on their being presented, her observations on the similitude Lady Gertrude bore to her father, as the twins exactly resembled their mother, drew a kind of homage from them they could not resist; they had never before been accustomed to hear comparisons between them, and those so near in affinity: Lady Emily and Mary were never flattered with a remembrance of a mother, from their representation of her, and Lady Gertrude had only her glass to delineate her features of him, who dwelt so sincerely on her memory; they therefore all involuntarily fell at the feet of the Hon. Mrs. Barron, and while they clasped her knees, called for a maternal benediction from her lips, as a representative of her they only knew had once existed.

CHAP.

C H A P. LIX.

IN two days afterwards they set out for his Lordship's seat in Yorkshire, purposing to return for a presentation at Court in two months; but it only became necessary, and at the request of the reigning Prince, for their restoration to the world had engaged all the friends of their late father to be solicitous that they should be acknowledged publicly, as a small tribute to his memory; the only regret attending the introduction was, that the friend of their father had yielded his crown to his successor, and was numbered among the dead two years before.

In Yorkshire the Countess was alarmed with visionary illusions. A fall of water in the Park gave her a trembling sensation, (though unaccustomed to fear) which she imputed to an early impulse, which made it familiar to her sight. The yelping of the dogs in their kennels were not new, now heard again, after a silence of fifteen years; but to Lady Emily and Mary every thing was delightful, every thing was unknown; they were too young when they left this charming abode for seclusion, to have the least trace remaining on their minds to bring them to remembrance.

Augustin had followed the carriage of his Lady to town, perfectly happy in being again in the service of the Earl and Countess of Marr, and the place of house steward being unoccupied from the death of the late possessor, he was presented by his Lord with the stewardship, which he was very capable of undertaking, as his education had been liberal, having, in his younger days, been equally a pupil

pupil with his late Lord in the instruction of reading, writing, and casting accompts.

The seat in Yorkshire was extensively noble, and as Lord Marr was an inhabitant, as well as possessor, if in the conversation the cottage and the parsonage were frequently mentioned, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Allen, with their son Edward, Lady Gertrude did not give a sigh for a return to that retreat, it will be allowed as pardonable, for the affectionate tenderness of Lord Marr admitted of no bounds, or of Mr. Langdale and Charles Allen, who all expressed their happiness so complete, as not to give a thought there could possibly be an increase to it.

Captain Allen, soon after their return to town, sold his commission in the regiment of foot in the East-Indies, and by the interest of Lord Marr, and the recommendation of Colonel Broomfield, who was returned to England, purchased a Colonelcy in the guards.

At the revolving season, when Mr. Langdale resided at Norway, the same party revisited the cottage, where they found the Parsonage-house tiled in, against the inclemency of the approaching winter, with a prospect of its being habitable in the spring; the Rector delighting in the improvements, and daily making more, or at least altering those already made. The Countess, with her sisters, traced with delight all their accustomed haunts, reminding each other of incidents both pleasing and distressing. Mrs. Allen continued sole mistress of the house during their stay, which continued a month.

The following year they returned, when they found the Parsonage inhabited by the Rector and his wife, a perfect Paradise, a situation so congenial to the sentiments of the possessors, that neither the ward of the guardian, or the powerful beauty and solicitude of the twins, could persuade either to visit London, and spend the winter with them in Cavendish-Square, the Parsonage being an
asylum.

asylum of happiness to the utmost extent of their wishes, though the Rector took an opportunity in a private moment with the Countess, at the same time that he rubbed his hands together, anticipating the satisfaction he should receive in her answer; when on his asking her, "If the charms of society were not a sufficient and adequate recompense for the exchange in the seclusion of the cottage?" She replied, "My dear guardian, I can never be too grateful to you and Lord Marr for the supreme happiness I experience, and sought a moment to tell Mr. Allen, with her accustomed affability, that she was now convinced of her declaration, "That every thing was for the best."

The third season, when the Countess and her sisters visited the cottage, it became likely again to be a nursery. Lady Gertrude had presented the delighted, as well as grateful, Lord Marr, with a son and heir, while Mr. Langdale was equally thankful for a similar present from the hands of Lady Mary;

Mary; and when Lady Emily Allen gave into the arms of Mrs. Allen a fine fat-faced chubby girl as a grand-daughter, she declared it the only recompense she could have for the loss of Edward, who was promoted to the command of a man of war, and was gone to join the fleet, and that, if her son did not leave the little Emily behind them at the cottage, she believed she should be induced to visit London, rather than part with her favourite.

On their arrival the cottagers of the neighbourhood flocked to the *wicket-gate*, in grateful acknowledgments for their bounty; the *infant*, the *aged*, and *infirm*, all found a resource for every affliction, as far as human help could any ways administer to their comfort, benevolence and charity were no longer restrained by necessity, a handsome annuity was appropriated for the purpose, and Mrs. Allen took on her the office of almoner. This third visit was, notwithstanding the additional joy the children gave to each individual, attended

tended with the only cloud of a renewed grief since the marriages. Lord Marr had at length prevailed on the Countess to have the remains of her father removed to the family vault in Yorkshire, and placed by the side of her mother. She at first objected, alledging, that the obscurity her father chose to be buried in, intimated his intention of always remaining so, as well as being unwilling to disturb his ashes : But Lord Marr observing that could only extend as far as their remaining so too, she consented, and Augustin came down with a shell, covered with black velvet, ornamented with the honours he possessed and inherited, and the vault being opened, his remains were conveyed to his paternal seat, Augustin attending on them to the final place of interment. This vacancy, in the church of Camsang, Mr. Allen bespoke as the resting place for himself and Mrs. Allen, while the insinuation caused the tears to start in the eyes of his ward and the twins, which to dispel, he laughingly told them he was too fond of his new habitation
to

to wish for some years to come to be an inhabitant of so dark an abode.

Lord Marr had taken an occasion of mentioning the Marchioness of Silona, and the embezzled fortune she had acquired, when the Ladies begged that no attempts might be adopted to recover any part of it; but the request became unnecessary, for his Lordship having wrote to the nephew of Lord W——, who resided at the Court of Spain with his uncle, begging him to gain what information he could respecting that Lady, received an answer, that in about six months after they left that kingdom she died in child-bed with her first child.

FINIS.

